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15 June 1983

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No. 2768

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PRODUCTION, RESEARCH IN MINING SECTOR NOTED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 6-7 May 83 p 4

/Article: "Djebel Onk, Ouenza, Kouif...Adaptation"

/Text/ In the past few days Djebel Onk, Ouenza, Kouif have met with the minister of heavy industry.

At Djebel Onk, the minister of heavy industry chaired a work session in which the top management of the Djebel Onk, Ouenza, Boukhadra mining complexes and that of the Kouif multi-industry unit took part.

The reports given by the managers indicated that the overall production of these units during the first quarter of 1983 has been satisfactory. The production objectives of the Ouenza and Boukhadra complexes were reached thanks in particular to a greater iron ore consumption by the El-Hadjar iron-steel complex.

For phosphates, only 80 percent of the quarterly production objective has been reached because of the small national consumption and because of the increasing shrinkage of the international market due to oversupply and to below-normal fertilizer consumption by agriculture throughout the world. As far as the Kouif unit is concerned, the depletion of the phosphate deposit has led to a reconversion of its activities. The object of this reconversion is to manufacture:

--wheelbarrows: 100,000 units per year;

--ceramic containers: 40,000 units per year, to be used in mercury refining:

--strap-hinges and butt-hinges made out of Zamak (9 million units per year).

To these capacities must be added a workshop for machining parts (43,000 hours per year) and the Zamak factory (600 tons per year) for the manufacture of junction boxes. Some production has started in the machining workshop for the maintenance of mining equipment, and also in the ceramic container factory.

/Photograph caption: "Two El-Abed miners walking briskly to their daily work"

The production startup of the Zamak factory is planned for September 1983. The machining workshop will also be used to manufacture parts for the economic units of the Tebessa wilaya /province/. The reconversion of this mine has led to the creation of 300 jobs, including the continuation of the whole Kouif workforce's employment.

It is worth noting at this point that a reconversion program for certain mines that are showing a structural deficit is now being studied at the level of the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

This program, which concerns in particular the mines at Zakkar, Beni-Saf, Timezrit and SidiKamber, is aimed at keeping up employment by creating new activities in areas that are often isolated and underprivileged.

The Kouif unit which at this time is part of SONAREM's /National Prospecting and Mine Exploitation Company/ assets will be transferred to the new PROMETAL /expansion unknown/ concern created by the reorganization of SN Metal /National Metal Construction Company/.

During that meeting, the minister of heavy industry spoke to reaffirm the special interest that the government has in the mining sector's activities; this interest has been manifested in concrete form through the important decisions recently taken by the Council of Ministers concerning the exploitation of resources and the development of mining research. The application of these decisions will lead to the improvement of the conditions in which these activities are undertaken. The consequences, economic as well as social, of these measures will help appreciably to provide mine workers with better living and working conditions.

#### Mining Research: High Priority Activity

Pointing out the increasing strategic role that the mining sector will play in the national economy, the minister of heavy industry asked the managers to continue the effort to mobilize workers for the implementation of production objectives in order to increase the economic independence of the country.

From this standpoint, the minister insisted especially on the development of mining research, which must be considered a high priority activity in the coming years, and he asked the company managers to take all the necessary measures that may contribute to the development of mining research.

Mentioning the application of the agreement between the Ministries of Heavy Industry and Transportation concerning railroad transportation of iron ore and phosphate, Mr Kasdi Merbah reminded the managers that the Annaba railroad project, inaugurated on 2 May 1983 by the president of the Republic, secretary general of the Party, will help to improve ore shipment.

Concerning the status of the Kouif mine's reconversion work, the minister asked the managers to make sure that the implementation deadlines for the various factories are observed, and to insure the best startup conditions for the unit.

At the end of that meeting, the minister and the accompanying delegation began a tour of the various installations of the Djebel Onk mining complex.

On Thursday morning the minister of heavy industry went on a tour of the sales outlets for iron and steel products (ENS) /National Steel Company/, industrial equipment (DEI) /Industrial Equipment Company/, spare parts for private vehicles (DVP) /Private Vehicle Company/, electric equipment (EDIMEL) /expansion unknown/. By taking the initiative, as some other wilayas did, of putting up in a very short time the buildings in which these sales outlets are located, the Tebessa wilaya has given that sector's businesses a chance to become operational very quickly and to satisfy a part of the population's needs for commonly used equipment and products.

The minister of heavy industry and the accompanying delegation went then successively to Kouif, Ouenza and Boukhadra where they toured the installations and workshops of these complexes.

#### Raising the Workers' Standard of Living

During these tours the minister asked the workers to continue their efforts to increase production and productivity as well as to master the technological processes. The minister indicated that these efforts are necessary not only to raise the workers' standard of living but also to increase the economic independence of the country.

On Thursday afternoon the minister of heavy industry went to the capital of the Tebessa wilaya where he was to chair a meeting that brought together, in addition to his staff and the principal company managers from the wilaya /text garbled--one line interpolated/, the wilaya director of industry and energy, the president and members of Tebessa's APC /People's Communal Assembly/.

The reports given by the wali /governor/ and the wilaya director for industry and energy provided information on the status of the units' production, the distribution of sector products in that wilaya, the development projects under consideration and the implementation of housing projects for the heavy industry units.

In his address Mr Kasdi Merbah pointed out that the offices of his ministry were giving a high priority to this wilaya when making available products and equipment marketed by business concerns in the sector in order to further increase its production potential. The minister also indicated that the status of the distribution of sector products in the wilaya was normal and satisfactory, particularly as far as industrial and commercial vehicles, iron and steel products and public works equipment are concerned. Delivery of the remaining balance of equipment will take place before the end of 1983.

Citing the importance of that wilaya's needs, the minister asked the general managers of the sector's businesses to strengthen the presence of these companies by multiplying the number of their sales outlets and branches and opening warehouses, even temporary ones. Toward this objective, the minister pointed out that the strengthening of the companies' presence required special assistance from local authorities, particularly through the allocation of grounds and buildings.

As far as ongoing projects are concerned, the minister insisted on the necessity for cooperation between local authorities and companies regarding project followup, so that the startup of these projects is not delayed in any way.

Believing that the development of small and medium-size industries will contribute to the development of that wilaya by creating jobs and manufacturing a large number of products needed by the national market, the minister of heavy industry emphasized the necessity of studying the existing possibilities for PMI /Small and Medium-Size Industries/ at the wilaya level. He specified moreover that the operation of these industries could be assigned either to national companies or to wilaya companies at the communal level or to the private sector.

Furthermore, citing the provisions specified in the maintenance plan decreed by the government, Mr Kasdi Merbah mentioned the need to quickly set up a committee for the maintenance of "rolling stock" at the wilaya level to make possible the optimal availability and utilization of rolling stock through a reduction of its idle time rate. The wilaya director for industry and energy must be the chairman of this committee.

As for housing, the heavy industry sector disposes of 474 units, as follows:

- 150 units for the Ouenza complex (rate of completion: 65 percent);
- 100 units for the Boukhadra complex (rate of completion: 45 percent);
- 224 units for the Djebel Onk complex (rate of completion: 45 percent).

In regard to housing for the sector's company workers, the minister asked local authorities to see to it that these lodgings are built as close to the factories as possible, in order to fight absenteeism more effectively and to reduce transportation costs.

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CSO: 4519/215

## ARMS DEAL WITH BRITAIN SAID TO BE IMMINENT

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 285, 9 May 83 pp 26-28

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali Qasim: "Swiss Military Sources: \$800 Million British Weapons Deal for Algeria"]

[Text] For the first time in the history of the Algerian defense structure since the achievement of independence in the early 1960's, it has been revealed that it is likely that Algeria will conclude an important major arms deal with a western country. Even though the expected deal has not been concluded officially yet, the prevalent current belief tends to confirm the reports circulated recently on this issue. Should this deal actually be concluded, it will constitute an extremely significant fundamental transformation at the level of the armament views traditionally held by Algeria and at the level of the military cooperation relations which bind Algeria with the weapon producing countries.

This is not the first time in which there has been talk of the possibility of Algeria turning toward a more balanced policy, from the international viewpoint, at the level of its efforts to bolster and develop its military capabilities. Since the death of the last President Houari Boumedienne and the assumption of power by his successor, President Chedli Bendjedid, a few years ago, there have been successive, almost periodic, reports on what may be a transformation toward adoption of the principle of "diversifying the sources for arming" the Algerian forces with the equipment and combat systems they need.

These successive reports have emerged from time to time although Algeria has maintained its firm traditional armament relations with the Soviet Union. But maintaining these relations has not, it seems, constituted an obstacle in the face of Algerian efforts which have sought throughout the past few years to acquire from other sources, whether western or third world sources, the weapons necessary for Algeria to complete the programs to develop and modernize its military forces. Consequently, the recent years and months have been characterized by the emergence of a lot of information focusing on the endeavors made by Algeria with more than one western source to conclude possible weapon deals and armament agreements in accordance with which the Algerian forces are supplied with various western weapons and equipment. It must be noted in this respect that Algeria's arms relations with the western countries, including the United States, have not been totally severed at any time.



Rather, these relations have continued to exist in various forms throughout the past 20 years, even though these relations have been marginal and not very vital. For example, Algeria obtained in the 1960's light U.S.-made helicopters (Hughes 300 type) which were built for training, search and rescue purposes, in addition to a small number of light transport and service aircraft of the Beechcraft King Air type. In that period, Algeria also acquired French training jets of the Fouga Magister type through West Germany and not directly from France. As for France, the Algerian army acquisitions have been confined to a limited number of light tanks, armored vehicles and mortar guns.

#### "Symbolic" Armament Relations With West Countered by Actual Reliance on Soviet Union

Therefore, the armament relations binding Algeria to the western countries in the past can be described altogether as "symbolic" relations with no actual impact on the general picture of the Algerian armed forces or on the actual combat capabilities they possess. In fact, this situation remained almost unchanged throughout the 1970's--a period which witnessed the Algerian forces' acquisition of more military equipment from western sources, including French-made Puma and Alouette helicopters, French-made anti-armor Milan missiles and light transport jets of the Falcon type. At the same time, the United States supplied the Algerian airforce with T-34 training helicopters and Hercules C-130 heavy transport aircraft. The Hercules is undoubtedly the most important item of military equipment acquired by Algeria from the west. It is necessary to point out, however, that the Hercules aircraft were sold to Algeria in the form of a commercial deal and not within the framework of official government military cooperation, as is usually the case with U.S. weapon exports to the outside world.

Thus, while Algerian weapon and equipment imports from the west continued to be confined to non-major and non-combat items, Algeria's relations with the Soviet Union reached highly vital levels insofar as the efforts to enhance the Algerian forces military combat capabilities are concerned. The information available to western sources indicates that Algeria received from the Soviet Union in the second half of the 1970's and the early 1980's equipment exceeding in value \$3 billion, including some of the latest weapons and military systems produced by the Soviets, such as:

BMP-1 combat tanks, 122-mm and 152-mm self-propelled guns, SAM-6 and SAM-9 antiaircraft missiles, Shilka antiaircraft guns, Mig-23, Mig-25 and Sukhoi-20 fighter planes and MiL-24 assault helicopters.

#### Beginnings of "Weapon Diversification" in Algeria

However, this did not stop Algeria's efforts to diversify its weapon sources. On the contrary, these efforts have intensified considerably since the onset of the 1980's. The most striking examples indicating Algeria's interest in obtaining more western weapons in the past few years have been revealed by various industrial sources in the United States, West Europe and the third world. In 1982, for example, reports spoke of negotiations which were taking



place between Algeria and France for the possible conclusion of an important weapons deal which, it was said at the time, could include modern Mirage-2000 fighter planes, AMX-30 tanks, Exocet anti-boat missiles and Crotale anti-aircraft missiles. Later in the same year, it was revealed that similar negotiations were being held between Algeria and Brazil. Those negotiations were assumed to deal with a \$410 million transaction to supply the Algerian forces with Brazilian-made Cascavel armored vehicles, Urutu personnel carriers and X-40 surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 40 kilometers. The recent reports speaking of the growing Algerian tendency to acquire western weapons also include the U.S. administration's announcement at the beginning of 1983 of its official approval to sell the Algerian air force eight more C-130 Hercules heavy transport aircraft, in addition to the six such aircraft already acquired by this air force.

But what must be noted regarding the previous information is that it was extremely optimistic on the one hand and premature on the other. The chapters of the assumed French-Algerian deal have not been completed and all that was produced by the negotiations which took place between the two sides has been (according to the information available so far) an agreement to sell the Algerian army 60 Panhard A.M.L. light armored vehicles. The fate of the other major weapons, such as the aircraft, the tanks and the missiles referred to, is not clear yet. As for the Brazilian-Algerian deal, no official confirmation has been made on concluding this deal, even though this deal continues to be likely and cannot be totally excluded.

#### Special Significance of Anticipated New Deal

These specific facts have been the main reason behind the special interest that has engulfed the recently emerging information regarding the new Algerian weapons deal which seems to be certain to be concluded very shortly. In fact, the interest in this deal can be attributed to the following factors.

1. The said deal will be concluded between Algeria and Britain, a West European country which has never had any noteworthy military or armament cooperation with Algeria before. This deal is likely, of course, to constitute a vital gain for British military industries and their ability to enter an Arab weapons market in which they have had no foothold previously. Such an entry will undoubtedly be at the expense of Britain's traditional rivals in weapon exportation, especially the European rivals. We mean by these rivals France in particular. It would be logical for France to expect Algeria to turn to it to get its needs of western-made weapons and equipment by virtue of the ties supposed traditionally to have existed between the two sides. It may be necessary to point out in this respect that the Algerian step constitutes in principle a major setback for Mitterand's government in particular, considering that this step comes in the wake of all the signs that have been indicating considerable relaxation in French-Algerian relations since the socialists' assumption of power in Paris. What makes the French shock even greater, if we may use the phrase, is that the British weapons which Algeria intends to acquire are of types and categories that constitute a main source of competition for weapons for which France has been working hard for years to gain export markets, especially in the Arab world.

2. The estimated cost of the new deal amounts to a sum which is considered large, indeed the absolutely largest of its type in comparison to former Algerian-western arms deals.

3. The said deal includes major combat weapons and equipment the likes of which Algeria has never acquired from a western source before considering that the parallel Algerian weapons have come so far exclusively from the Soviet Union.

To put it in more detail, the information speaking of the imminent conclusion of the expected arms deal between Algeria and Britain (and it may be interesting to note that the information comes from Swiss industrial-military sources) is to the effect that the expected value of the new deal amounts to nearly \$500 million as a first phase, to be followed by a second phase that is likely to amount in value to \$300 million, i.e. a total of \$800 million over the next few years. As for the equipment which Algeria intends to acquire from Britain in accordance with the expected deal, it includes the following main items:

6 patrol boats, each with a length of 42 meters (127 feet) to be built by the Brooke Marine Company in its shipyards in Lowestoft in Suffolk, Southern Britain. Algeria's purchase of these boats constitutes a direct victory by the British shipbuilding industry over the French counterpart which has been working for years, and with considerable success, to market the Combatant boat in the third world and the Arab area. However, it is still not unlikely that Algeria will opt for the French Exocet anti-boat missiles to install in its new British patrol boats.

Two tank-landing boats [amphibious vessels] to be built jointly by the British Brooke Marine and Vosper Thorncroft companies. This is the first time that the Algerian navy will acquire amphibious landing capability that is relatively modern. Algeria acquired many years ago an old Soviet tank-landing vessel which is not believed to be in operation now.

Helicopter aircraft that are likely to be of the Lynx type which is manufactured by the Westland Company and which can be used for transportation and vertical assault tasks, in addition to anti-ship and anti-submarine operations and search, rescue, surveillance and observation tasks, with the helicopters taking off from either coastal bases or from abroad ships.

Armored vehicles, including personnel carriers and command vehicles.

Hawk training and tactical support jet aircraft: The currently prevalent information indicates that the Algerian air force is interested in getting nearly 30 of these aircraft to replace the Fouga Magister aircraft it has had in operation for several years and which are about to reach the end of their practical life-span due to their old age. Algeria's acquisition of Hawk aircraft constitutes the indisputable most important item of the expected weapons deal between Algeria and Britain. This is because this is the second time in the past few weeks in which the British aircraft industry has scored an important victory over its French rival in the Arab market, considering that

this deal comes a short time after Britain's conclusion of a deal to supply the UAE with Hawk aircraft in the face of strong competition from France which had offered to supply its jets, known by the name of Alpha-Jet, which is similar in principle, specifications and duties to the Hawk and which constitutes the latter's natural competitor in Arab and world markets. It is to be noted that France has been able so far to sell the Alpha-Jet aircraft to a number of Arab countries, including Egypt (which is now producing this aircraft under license), Morocco, Qatar and Kuwait (through a number of models produced in Egypt). Meanwhile, France is negotiating to sell the said aircraft to Libya. On the other hand, Britain has won deals for its Hawk aircraft with the UAE and Algeria at a time when it is holding negotiations on the possibility of selling the same type of aircraft to Iraq, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman.

#### Resumption of British-French Competition

In any case, it is necessary to cite one reservation concerning all the reports on the expected Algerian-British weapons deal by noting that the reports continue to be unilateral, i.e. cited basically by western sources without any official Algerian confirmation. But on the other hand, we cannot but express the conviction that the official conclusion of this deal, likely to take place shortly, will have great significance and importance. On the one hand, the deal will constitute a practical entrenchment of the growing Algerian tendency to diversify the sources of Algeria's weaponry. On the other hand, this agreement will constitute a new fundamental indication of Britain's return to Arab weapon markets and its occupation of an advanced position in these markets in the wake of a phase of retreat and decline throughout the 1970's. The prominent question being currently raised by the various observers of the Arab area's armament affairs is a question focused on the competitive relationship between Britain and France and on the possibilities of its future development. These observers wonder if the 1980's will actually be Britain's golden years in the Arab weapon markets whereas the 1970's were France's golden age in these markets. The developments of the recent period indicate, of course, that such a possibility is not at all unlikely.

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CSO: 4504/174

ALGERIA

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA--Algiers 26/5/83 (APS)--The Algero-Bulgarian cooperation witnessed a new development with the signing on Wednesday of an official report sanctioning the works of 14th session of the Algero-Bulgarian joint commission. In this regard they agreed to the intensification of the current of trade exchange on the bases of the pluri-annual contracts dealing with the products available on each other part. In the field of economic cooperation the two sides proceeded to the assessment of the projects underway and how to reach new possibilities in the interest of the two countries, and dealing with sectors such as industry, fisheries, agriculture, hydraulics, public works, housing and even town planning. This 14th session gave moreover a new boost to Algero-Bulgarian cooperation. [Text] [LD270309 Algiers APS in English 1810 GMT 26 May 83 LD]

CSO: 4500/228

# PROJECTED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Apr 83 p 9

[Interview with Dr Muhammad al-Sayyid al-Gharuri, minister of industry and mineral resources, by Ahmad al-'Attar: "In 1983/84 Industrial Production by the Public, Private, and Investment Sectors Will Total 12 Billion Egyptian Pounds"; date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] The minister of industry says: "The private sector has all the advantages [it needs], and when it competes with the public sector, this benefits the consumers."

"We must increase our textile industry production in order to meet both our domestic and export needs."

"Next year our industrial exports will total 426 million Egyptian pounds."

Dr Muhammas al-Sayyid al-Gharuri, minister of industry and mineral resources, said that he expects Egyptian industrial production by the public, private, and investment sectors to reach a total value of 12 billion Egyptian pounds next year. He said that 35.8 percent of this total will be produced by the private and investment sectors. Furthermore, he said that he expects the value of industrial exports next year to total 426.3 million Egyptian pounds. In his interview with the "Business Page" of AL-AHRAM, the minister also made it clear what steps were necessary in order to deal with production problems as well as the situation in the textile sector and the role it is to play in the future. He asserted that he emphatically refuses to allow the public sector to buy used machinery and equipment. He said that the private sector can do this, but only in certain fields and only if it follows certain guidelines and stipulations. He added that the private and investment sectors have an important role to play in the implementation of the development plan and that all resources and capacities are available to them to accomplish their work and production.

In our interview with Mr al-Gharuri concerning the present and future situation regarding Egyptian industry, our first question was the following:

[Question] What is the situation with regard to total industrial production by the public, private, and investment sectors next year?

[Answer] According to the estimates for next year, that is, 1983/84, there is expected to be a great increase in the value of total production by the public, private, and investment sectors of Egyptian industry. The total value of this production is expected to be 12 billion Egyptian pounds, whereas it was 9.5 billion Egyptian pounds in 1981/82. This represents an increase of 2.5 billion Egyptian pounds or 26 percent. According to estimates of next year's production we also expect to see a great increase in industrial production in 1983/84 in comparison with production in 1981/82. As for the value of production by the Ministry of Industry, next year it is expected to total about 5.7 billion Egyptian pounds, as compared with 4.4 billion Egyptian pounds or 29.5 percent. As for production by the other ministries and organizations belonging to the public sector, the total value of their production next year is expected to be 2 billion Egyptian pounds, as compared with 1.8 billion Egyptian pounds in 1981/82. This represents an increase of 200 million Egyptian pounds or 11 percent. As for the private and investment sectors, the total value of their production in 1983/84 is expected to be 4.3 billion Egyptian pounds, as compared with 3.3 billion Egyptian pounds [in 1981/82]. This represents an increase of 1 billion Egyptian pounds or 30 percent. Estimates also indicate that the value of production by the Ministry of Industry will constitute 47.5 percent of the total industrial production next year, as compared with 46 percent in 1981/82. The value of production by the other ministries and organizations belonging to the public sector will constitute 16.7 percent [of the total industrial production], as compared with 19 percent in 1981/82. As for the value of production by the private and investment sectors, it will constitute 35.8 percent of total industrial production next year, as compared with 35 percent in 1981/82.

[Question] What about industrial exports?

[Answer] The industrial plan for next year (1983/84) calls for exports totalling a value of 426.3 million Egyptian pounds, as compared with about 418 million Egyptian pounds this year. Textile products will be at the top of the list of these exports. The plan calls for exporting 191.4 million Egyptian pounds worth of textile goods next year, as compared with 193.5 million Egyptian pounds this year. Second on the list after textile exports is mineral products. Exports of mineral products next year are expected to total a value of 190.5 million Egyptian pounds, as compared with 180.7 million Egyptian pounds this year. Then we have exports of foodstuffs, the value of which will total 28.5 million Egyptian pounds in 1983/84, as compared with 36.2 million million Egyptian pounds [this year]. The reason for the decrease in our exports of these products next year is that we are giving priority to meeting the foodstuff requirements of our citizens in Egypt. After foodstuffs come exports of chemical products, and they will total a value of 10.1 million Egyptian pounds in 1983/84, as compared with 3.5 million Egyptian pounds [this year]. Next on the list we have metal products and products fired in furnaces, and their exports will total a value of 5.8 million Egyptian pounds [in 1983/84], as compared with 4.4 million Egyptian pounds [this year].



[Question] How is it possible to solve the problems faced by the industrial sector in Egypt?

[Answer] In my opinion, some of the things that would help to solve the problems of the industrial sector would be to lower the taxes on industrial activity, lower the interest rates on industrial loans, and make a new study of the customs tariffs which we have right now since they, in some cases, impose fees on materials and requirements for production which are higher than the fees on the finished products. In addition to this, we must solve the problem of the increase in the price of the dollar.

[Question] What is your opinion about the role which the private sector can play in the future? Does it have all of the capacities and resources necessary to play an important role?

[Answer] The private sector has an important role to play in the implementation of the development plan, and it contributes toward financing it. In my opinion, the private sector supplements and competes with the public sector. Competition is something which is necessary between the public and private sectors, as well as between the various companies within the public sector. Of course, the creation of competition requires that there be an abundance of production in order to enable Egyptian consumers to choose the best products. In my opinion the private and investment sectors both have all of the capabilities, resources, and advantages which they need in order to stimulate them to carry out their work and production. Furthermore, they have great flexibility in terms of their business activity. The opposite is true of the public sector, which suffers from the fact that it has long and numerous procedures and stipulations to deal with in many cases. Because of this, the new public sector law has the objective of providing the public sector with more flexibility. Furthermore, the private and investment sectors are free to set their own prices, and this is not true of the public sector. This has led some organizations in the public sector to demand to have the same advantages which the private and investment sectors have.

[Question] The private sector in Egypt has the right to purchase used machinery and equipment, whereas the public sector is not able to do this. What is your opinion concerning how appropriate it is to purchase such used machinery and equipment? Would you agree to allow the public sector to purchase it also?

[Answer] It has been forbidden to purchase used machinery and equipment. However, in certain fields the private sector has been allowed to do this. This includes machinery and equipment used in the textile and printing industries. This was allowed in order to help the private sector. In addition to this, citizens in the private sector feel that they should have the freedom to purchase whatever they want to. They are the owners of the firms, and they know what their requirements are. Also, evidence indicates that there are plants in Europe which are in very good condition but which have gone bankrupt and been shut down, and the machinery and equipment in

these plants is only a few years old. But as for the public sector, I cannot agree to allow it to purchase used machinery and equipment. The reason for this is that the public sector should set an example in terms of modernization and keeping up with advanced technology. Furthermore, from the economic point of view it is better to purchase new machinery and equipment than it is to purchase used machinery and equipment. The productivity and industrial capacity of a new piece of machinery is greater, a piece of new machinery is of better quality, and in the final analysis a piece of new machinery will bring in more profit. Many owners of firms in the private sector have become convinced that it is better to have new machinery and equipment than to have used machinery and equipment, and consequently they prefer to purchase new rather than used machinery and equipment. Nevertheless, there are certain guidelines which must be observed and followed when approving the purchase of used machinery and equipment. First of all, the machinery and equipment must be in good condition. Also, it must be imported for the sole use of the owner of the firm and may not be used for other commercial purposes.

[Question] The textile industry throughout the world is facing a lot of problems. In your opinion, to what degree have these problems affected the textile industry in Egypt? What is the situation with regard to this industry in the future?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the textile industry represents the backbone of Egyptian industry. This industry has a long history, and it relies on cotton, which is one of the principal crops produced by Egypt. Furthermore, this industry provides employment opportunities for a great many of our citizens. But the textile industry in Egypt is faced with a number of major difficulties. One of the most important of these is the fact that many nations are using quota systems and limiting the quantities of textiles which they are importing. In addition to this, the textile industry all over the world has been affected and hit especially hard by the general economic recession. Many developing countries are eager to establish their own textile industries. Quite often these countries begin their process of industrialization by establishing a textile industry. This has greatly contributed toward the existence of a worldwide recession in the textile industry. Some of the advanced nations, especially those in Europe, have started to abandon their textile industries. The labor force in those nations is leaving the textile industry in order to work in other industries which are more profitable for these workers. In the textile industry [in those countries] they are now concentrating on the more advanced final stages of textile production such as the production of modern outfits and the cutting and tailoring of fabrics and materials. By doing this they are able to specialize in production operations which bring in a relatively high profit and this enables them to pay the higher wages they have to pay. Also, there are some nations in Southeast Asia which have achieved great success in the textile industry. But they have gone in the direction of establishing other, more profitable, heavy and light industries and have begun to abandon the textile industry--or at least they have begun to depend less on the textile industry. But there are many other nations, including some of the



developing nations, which are very active now in the field of textile production and which now have begun to suffer from the recession. Also, there is a gap in currency rates which has negatively affected the prices of exported textile products. As far as the situation in Egypt is concerned, the textile industry is of great importance. There are several basic reasons for this. First of all, we need to provide clothing for our people, and we need to produce textiles for export. Also, this industry relies on cotton, which is a raw material abundantly available in Egypt. For this reason, our emphasis in the field of textile production will be on providing clothing for our citizens, keeping up with the constant increase in our population, and striving to increase the share of clothing which each Egyptian citizen has. In addition to this, we will be striving to increase our exports of textile products. Therefore in Egypt we will be seeing an expansion of the textile industry. Also, we are going to work toward achieving a greater degree of industrialization in the textile sector. Furthermore, we will emphasize greater production of ready-made clothes and will give more attention to greater production of synthetic fibers.

9468

CSO: 4505/338

EGYPTIAN LABOR MARKET SITUATION ABROAD SURVEYED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Apr 83 p 13

[Article by Najla' Dhikra: "Is the Drop in Oil Prices Affecting the Egyptian Labor Market Abroad?"]

[Text] The minister of labor says: "Some oil-producing nations have stopped hiring."

"We must take an actual census of those working abroad."

"We must establish a system for protecting both the employer and the workers."

Last week, during an interview with Albert Barsum [Salamah,] minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs, AL-AHRAM's "Business Page" brought up the subject of the Egyptian labor force abroad and how it would be possible to systematically benefit from the savings of these workers and induce them to invest these savings inside Egypt, their "mother country." There is also another aspect to this issue. Since the seventies the income received by these workers abroad has represented an important part of our national income, and it has been at the top of the list in terms of being a source of our foreign currency. For this reason it has been necessary to take an objective look [at the situation] after the worldwide decline in oil prices and the effect which this decline has had on the oil-producing nations as far as their Egyptian labor force is concerned. We have had to ask, for example: Are the oil-producing nations also decreasing their budgets for their new projects--something which will consequently affect the foreign labor force coming to these countries? Does the Egyptian development plan deal with what is anticipated in the future in terms of a sudden return of many of our workers from some parts of the Arab world? What is the Ministry of Labor doing right now to regulate the movement of workers to places abroad?

The first person to speak was Ibrahim Khalifah, director general of international relations in the Ministry of Manpower and Training. He talked about the effects of the decrease in oil prices on savings by Egyptians working

abroad and the effects which employment of the Asian work force has had on the Egyptian work force in the Arab countries. He said: "In spite of the importance of the remittances of the Egyptians working abroad as a major source of foreign currency for Egypt, there are still no organized laws concerning Egyptian workers going abroad to work and the door has been left wide open and there are no restrictions in this regard. This has resulted in a number of difficulties and problems. One of the most important problems of this sort now is that we have no actual census which shows the number of workers that we have abroad and how much their incomes are. The only statistics which we have right now are mere estimates, and they may not at all reflect the true situation. However, through the Ministry of Manpower and Training and through its various departments such as the Foreign Employment Department and the International Relations Department, we have set up workers' representation bureaus abroad which are subordinate to our ministry. We have a total of eight such bureaus in Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Athens, and Geneva. As a result, we have obtained some data and statistics.

"There are 158,000 Egyptian workers residing in Kuwait, and of this total, 105,000 workers are actually employed. In Jordan there are 112,000 workers, most of whom are employed in construction and agriculture, and they constitute 78 percent of the total foreign work force in Jordan. There are 45,000 Egyptians residing in the UAE, and of this total, 28,000 workers are actually employed. In Saudi Arabia there are 400,000 Egyptians. As for Iraq, because of the war we could not obtain any information, and we could not obtain any information from Libya due to political circumstances. There are 24,000 Egyptians working in Greece, and this figure will increase to 31,000 during the summer season.

"This is the situation as far as the number of Egyptians working abroad is concerned. As for the changes which are occurring and which have been brought up for discussion, let me say the following: First of all, the decline in oil prices has, of course, affected the economies of the Arab oil-producing countries--countries where a large number of Egyptians are working. This, in turn, is affecting these countries' employment situation with regard to their foreign labor force and the degree to which they are establishing ambitious economic development plans.

"For example, in Qatar studies have been conducted concerning the effects which the decline in oil prices has had on the Qatari economy. After these studies were made, the Qatari cabinet issued decisions to put a stop to all new hiring as far as the foreign labor force was concerned, to decrease expenditures by about 25 percent, to replace the foreign labor force with Qatari workers, and to cancel future projects.

"Before its war Iraq used to produce 2.5 million barrels of oil per day which it used to export via three outlets. Two of these oil outlets have been put out of commission, and the only one left is the outlet across Turkish territory, and it is exposed to sabotage and bombardment. As a result of this, the amount of oil exported from Iraq has gone down to 650,000 barrels per day.

"As a result of the oil price decrease agreed upon at the last OPEC meeting, Iraq will be losing \$1.2 billion per year. This has had a tremendous effect on the Egyptian labor force there. Work has been halted in many locations. This has especially affected the Egyptian labor force in the petroleum sector in Iraq, and it has been in this sector that the sharpest decline has occurred.

"There is no doubt that the decline in oil prices has affected the Egyptian work force abroad. Our ministry, via its workers' representation bureaus, is undertaking a study concerning this matter. This decline in oil prices is going to greatly affect the employment of new workers in the future. However, it will not greatly affect the labor force employed in projects which are already actually under way.

"As for the second factor, which is the trend on the part of the Arab nations to employ an Asian labor force instead of an Arab labor force, this trend has begun to change completely. This happened after the nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, about a year and a half ago, issued decisions which involved replacing the Asian labor force with an Arab labor force. They decided on this policy because great changes had occurred in the customs and traditions of these Arab nations as a result of the entry of the Asian labor force, and social, security, political, and military circumstances were also taken into consideration. Some violent crimes occurred because of the presence of this foreign labor force. Thus they decided that the Egyptian labor force was more in harmony with the traditions and customs of Arab nations than any labor force from any other countries." However, Mr Khalifah concluded by warning against continuing to allow large numbers of Egyptian workers to go abroad, especially since he felt that this would have a negative effect on the domestic resources and capacities of Egypt as well as Egypt's ability to implement its new development plans. He said: "It is a very bad thing when Korean workers build large hospitals and other buildings in Egypt while Egyptian workers are in other countries doing the same thing! Egypt is the country which most deserves its own workers, especially since those who travel abroad to work are among the most qualified Egyptian workers."

Concerning the role played by the ministry in finding jobs for Egyptian workers abroad, Mrs Nawal Saqr, director general of foreign employment in the Ministry of Manpower and Training, said: "For the last 4 months the Ministry of Manpower and Training has been supervising the operation of regulating the employment of Egyptian workers abroad. This began after the promulgation of Law Number 119 of 1982 which contains the basic principles for regulating the operation of employing Egyptians abroad. There are two ways in which this is accomplished. It is done first of all via the ministry which receives employment requests from employers abroad either directly or via the workers' bureaus attached to our embassies abroad.

"The Ministry of Manpower supervises the process of selecting the work force, which is required in accordance with the specifications set by the employers, from the lists of names of Egyptians wishing to work abroad which the ministry's offices have.

"This, of course, helps to ascertain the seriousness of the requests made by the employers and gives the Egyptian workers the opportunity to have better working conditions, both with regard to wages and housing. Egypt is one of the handiest countries for an employer to turn to when seeking a labor force because Egypt is geographically so close to the Arab nations seeking the labor force.

"Furthermore, the ministry guarantees that the Egyptian workers will not fall victim to exploitation and will not have to pay any sums of money in return for receiving employment abroad.

"Our ministry was supposed to begin supervising this operation long ago. In 1975 the ministry actually did prepare a law dealing with emigration and employment. In 1977 this law was approved by both the National Democratic Party and the Council of State, but it has still not been promulgated! But in order to deal with illicit activity in this realm, the government started implementing Law Number 119 on 24 December 1982.

"The second method of supervising this process is that of providing licenses to worker dispatching bureaus in Egypt. So far the ministry has received 106 requests for licenses for worker dispatching bureaus. Approval has been granted for 10 of these bureaus and they have been licensed to operate, 6 requests have been rejected, and another 38 of the requests are expected to be taken up by the appropriate committee on 11 April 1983.

"Applicants for licenses must furnish all the relevant data concerning themselves and their families. Each applicant must also furnish a letter of undertaking for 20,000 Egyptian pounds from a bank. The ministry then conducts inquiries concerning the applicants by means of contacting the labor bureaus, the embassies, and the Office of Public Security."

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CSO: 4504/338

# PRICE INCREASES NOT EXPECTED DESPITE BUDGET DEFICIT

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Mar 83 pp 1, 7

[Article by 'Awatif al-Kilani: "President Mubarak Discusses 1983-84 Budget, Pursuit of State Plan With Economic Group"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak held a meeting yesterday morning with the members of the economic group. Those attending the meeting were Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din, prime minister; Eng Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din Hilal, deputy prime minister and minister of petroleum; and the ministers of planning, finance, economy and investment, agriculture, industry, supply, tourism and aviation.

Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning, stated immediately after the one and one-quarter hour meeting that two basic subjects were discussed. The first topic was broad policy for the 1983-84 state budget, from the standpoints of both revenue and expenditures.

He said: "The net budget deficit for the past year reached 1.5 billion pounds, and we are now trying to reduce this deficit from what it was in the past year." As for the other topic, a follow-up on the state plan for 1982-83, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, the ministry of planning is now preparing its report for the third quarter. It will be discussed on 31 March and will be a topic of discussion at the next meeting of the cabinet.

## Lower Oil Prices

In reply to a question about whether the cause of the deficit is lower oil prices, the minister of planning said: "It is established that the deficit resulting from lower oil prices is 245 million dollars this year and 500 million dollars next year. This is what we call a shortfall in state revenue. We are trying to make that up, either in other current income or sovereign income, in addition to holding down spending to cover this deficit."

## Plan to Reduce Spending

In reply to a question as to whether there is a plan to reduce spending in every ministry, Dr al-Janzuri said: "Preparations are on the state level, by the ministry of finance, planning or economy, but when we draw up the general outlines the ministers will participate in discussing them in the cabinet."



### No Increase in Prices

When asked whether covering the deficit would result in higher prices, he said: "There is no increase in prices contained in the state plan. The state has every desire to make things easier for the people, and the government will never resort to raising prices in a way that would hurt the vast majority of the people. This means that there is no plan to raise prices. Thus we say that we are trying to hold down spending to meet this deficit. Naturally it would be easier to raise prices, but there is no plan to do that now until we discuss it."

### Pressure on Spending

The minister of planning said: "The government is taking steps to hold down spending so that we can meet the deficit, because an increase in prices is tantamount to an increase in income, and this is not being discussed now."

In reply to a question about whether there is a search for new revenue, he said: "Petroleum is considered hard currency. We will have no new revenue unless we increase exports of agricultural and industrial commodities, if we are talking about hard currency." As to the type of steps which can be taken to meet the deficit, the minister said: "This is a point of debate. We cannot discuss it in detail now. We will discuss it at another meeting after the president returns from his trip to the Far East. This is now being studied by various ministries."

### Production Increase

When asked whether we had achieved an increase in agricultural and industrial production this year, the minister of planning said: "This is one of the major goals of the Five-Year Plan, in both agriculture and industry. We are trying to push agricultural and industrial production to increase exports and limit imports."

When asked whether there were directives from the president, he said: "The president has confirmed more than once that it is necessary to work to reduce the budget deficit, and he repeated that today."

### No Effect on Programs

In response to a question about whether there is a change in government programs to meet this deficit resulting from a drop in the price of petroleum, he said: "We are continuing our studies and have not reached any definite steps or decisions." At the conclusion of his statements, the Minister of Planning denied that this deficit will influence government programs to strengthen the food security policy.

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CSO: 4504/307

AL-QADHDHAFI INTERVIEWED ON ITALY, MIDEAST

AU221918 Rome ANSA in English 1905 GMT 22 May 83

[Text] (ANSA)--Rome, 22/23 May--In an exclusive interview with the Rome daily IL MESSAGGERO Sunday, Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi said that the solution to the tense political relations between Libya and Italy lies with the Italians.

The interview took place under a tent where the 42-year-old Libyan leader spends much of his working days.

Al-Qadhdhafi claimed in the interview that he wants to establish "an historical relationship" with Italy and explained that the only chance for saving Italy is a "popular revolution."

Asked why political relations are stagnating between the two countries--as opposed to bilateral trade--the Libyan leader said that one of the main reasons is "political instability in Italy."

Others are "United States pressure on Italy, Zionist and reactionary propaganda against Libya, the propaganda of Libyans who fled the revolution, of Jews and Italians expelled from Libya." All these things have "poisoned" relations, according to al-Qadhdhafi.

The Libyan leader said that in order to radically resolve the political and economic problem and to achieve political and social stability in Italy "power must be handed over to the people." He urged Italians "to set up popular congresses, popular committees and revolutionary committees to restore homogeneity between Italy and Libya."

Al-Qadhdhafi also mentioned the need to "transform the Mediterranean into a sea of peace and brotherhood and to end military actions in the sea we have in common."

Asked about the alleged ties between Libya and the ultraright and/or the extreme left in Italy, al-Qadhdhafi said there is no evidence of such ties because they never existed. He claimed that he opposes clandestine actions and rejects terrorism and violence and called on the Italian Red Brigades urban guerrillas to "abandon violence and clandestine actions and practical legal revolutionary actions."



Asked whether he would call on the Soviet Union to deploy missiles in Libya if Italy goes ahead with deployment of NATO missiles in Sicily by the end of this year, al-Qadhdhafi said "it is premature to say."

"Libya reserves for itself the right to defend itself and cope with the dangerous move. In the meantime, Libyans can join Italians in peace marches to save "Sicily from this hell." [Quotation marks as received]

With respect to the Middle East, al-Qadhdhafi continues to hope for the destruction of Israel. He voiced solidarity with Jews, adding that Zionists must be opposed.

Al-Qadhdhafi recognizes that no Arab country is capable of confronting Israel alone and claimed that only the unity of the Arab world can do something against Israel.

CSO: 4500/222

## TRIPOLI ON 'IMPERIALIST ONSLAUGHT' AGAINST CHAD, LIBYA

LD241746 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] In its latest issue AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR carries a leading article entitled: Who is interfering in Chad?

The paper writes: Anyone who has carefully studied the situation on the African continent recently will have noticed that an extensive and devilishly planned imperialist onslaught aimed at liquidating the revolutionary regime in Africa is taking place. This onslaught is taking various forms and means, from economic and political pressures to direct military intervention. There is no doubt that this is an imperialist reaction to the victories scored by revolutionary forces in a number of African countries.

The recent direct intervention that occurred in Upper Volta and the overthrowing of the revolutionary regime there by agent right-wing elements planted on that regime, which is guided by the new Jamahiri thought and by Third World theory, is proof of this. The (?old) colonialist powers are once again returning to their habits and are exposing an even uglier face.

After the dirty diplomatic game in Chad, which brought civil war back to this tragic African country after the Jamahiriyyah had restored peace, stability and security to it--after this came the latest attempted coup in Benin, discovered at the last moment, in the atmosphere of tendentious propaganda campaign waged by the propaganda of Western imperialism concerning an alleged Libyan intervention in Chad in order to create a legitimate political umbrella for its blatant colonial intervention and moreover to justify any future imperialist interventions.

Events that take place day after day confirm that there is no escape for Chad from its tragedy except through restoring the legitimate government of national unity. The imperialist propaganda media must remain silent and stop their tendentious campaign against Libya. The revolutionary force of the revolutionary committees warn the imperialist powers and their agents against damaging a single grain of the soil of this sister African country and warn their information media of the consequences of fabricated statements and lies manufactured by their governmental information media about an alleged Libyan intervention in Chad.

The revolutionary force recalls the speech by the leader of the great 1 September revolution at the ceremony celebrating the return of our victorious forces from Chad on 28 November 1981, when leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi stressed that we will never allow colonialists and reactionaries to come between us and our friends, because the security of Chad is linked to the Jamahiriya's security and vice versa; moreover Libyan and Chadian soil is one soil, the Libyan and Chadian people in fact constitute one people, and Chad cannot be divorced from Libya as Libya cannot be divorced from Chad. But the imperialists only comprehend barriers and barbed wire. The agent governments cannot prevent the spread of revolutionary Jamihiri thought. The living force in Africa, headed by the revolutionary committees, warn the imperialist and colonialist powers against their movements in the African continent and against interventions in these countries' international affairs.

CSO: 4500/222

DAILY RAPS U.S. FOR LIFTING F-16'S EMBARGO

PM262020 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 21 May 83 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Spotlight"]

[Text] Last Tuesday U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, speaking before the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, said that the Soviet Union had delivered new missiles to Syria. He stressed that this new situation gave rise to more pressure for an end to the embargo on the supply of F-16 aircraft to the Zionist entity. He refused to say whether he had recommended lifting the embargo to President Reagan. He just said that 5,000 Soviets had recently arrived in Syria to supervise the SAM-5 antiaircraft batteries and that other undisclosed types of weapons had also been delivered to Syria.

It was clear that, as usual, the United States wanted to reward the Zionist entity for signing the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and that it was looking for ways to justify more military and financial aid for its pampered Zionist ally, especially because the U.S. presidential elections are around the corner. Begging for Jewish votes is a familiar tradition followed by every candidate. Exaggeration of the importance of the Jewish vote is also a common game played by the media.

Less than 24 hours after that statement, President Reagan himself announced the decision to lift the embargo, as expected. He affirmed that he would defend his decision in Congress. This has happened even before the Israeli forces began to withdraw from Lebanon.

As regards what the Arabs expect from the United States, such as putting pressure on Israel to freeze the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, it seems that the White House is not at all interested in doing that.

Perhaps the United States understands pressure to mean enabling the Zionist entity to employ advanced instruments of pressure to subject the Arabs to its will.

CSO: 4500/223

## DEBATE OVER CENSUS RESULTS REPORTED

### Census Results Questioned

Casablanca AL BAYANE in French 8 Apr 83 p 1

[Article: "Doubtful Figures?"]

[Text] Is the real population of the country numerically equal to the "legal population"?

This has become a legitimate question since the Ministry of Planning sent its fellow ministries the official figures on the general population census taken in September 1982.

If we are to believe the government, the population of Morocco does not even reach 20.5 million: 20,419,555 to be exact, of which 8,730,399 are city dwellers (42.7 percent of the total) and 11,689,156 live in the country (57.3 percent).

Is this some kind of practical joke? "April Fool" just a bit late?

Indeed, the difficulty lies in admitting not so much the veracity as the sheer plausibility of the figures. From the demographic specialist on down to the man in the street, many will wonder whether they should laugh out loud or be righteously indignant. Nobody will question the "modesty" of the figure! After all, 20 million Moroccans ("officially") in 1983 when there were already ("officially") more than 15 million in 1971 (the date of the previous census) yields a rate of reproduction that puts us in the same category as countries where procreation is a problem, such as Norway, Sweden and Iceland.

Who are they trying to fool?

We are not trying to start a drumhead court-martial of official experts nor get mileage out of quantified data that has not been made public. But we have the right to ask a few questions and expect convincing answers.

(1) Why did the government wait seven long months to make these astonishing figures official? This question is especially well founded because it is known that the latest techniques were brought to bear for the census; the national head count was done not on an abacus but with computers. Now, a computer, by definition, does not take seven months to give an answer.

(2) With what facts does the government expect to contradict the projections and estimates of specialists and international organizations that have given Morocco a population of at least 26 million and a rate of population increase of at least 3.5 percent a year?

(3) What is to be made of the leaks and rumors emanating from the ministries concerned to the effect (as has been reported in some press media) that a city like Casablanca alone has nearly 4 million inhabitants?

(4) If the rate of population growth is so "reasonable," what explanation is there for the many government birth-control campaigns? What justification can be given for the radio and television spots urging the public "to organize the family for Moroccan progress"? What is the reason behind the wholesale tube-tying going on in Moroccan hospitals? How are we to understand the launching of a pilot project in the Oriental department--it may eventually be extended to the rest of the country--whereby health officials go into the hamlets and villages with bags stuffed with contraceptives? What is the explanation for all these official and semi-official workshops where officials proclaim that family planning is in no way incompatible with our Arab-Islamic values?

Unless the government answers these questions and others just as important, it risks giving the impression that the real census figures have been underestimated and that the truth has been covered up.

Is the government ready to give all the census documents to a commission of neutral and independent experts, who might confirm the results?

#### Ministry of Planning Response

Casablanca AL BAYANE in French 22 Apr 83 p 2

[Article: "Planning Ministry's Explanation to AL BAYANE"]

[Text] In response to AL BAYANE's publication of an editorial on the results of the general population and housing census, the Ministry of State in Charge of Planning, Cadre Training and Vocational Training has published the following explanation.

"In your editorial published in issue No 2,530 of Friday 8 April 1983, you express doubts about the results of the general population and housing census made official by the government council on 6 April 1983. I would like to use my right of response to dispel the confusion that the editorial's scientifically unfounded assertions are liable to cause in public opinion.

"The population and housing census was a nationwide operation and made use of scientific methodology, appropriate organization and effective participation by the people. More than 25,000 employees in the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Planning and the National Defense administration, as well as other departments, have labored to complete this operation under the best conditions.

"It is impossible that these thousands of national officials, who have displayed unequalled competence, patriotism and perseverance, should be held suspect in their honesty and intellectual integrity.

"As for the 7-month delay, you are too quick to say that 'the most effective techniques have been brought to bear ... and that a computer, by definition, does not need 7 months to give an answer.'

"I would remind you that most countries that have recently carried out a population census, such as the United States, France and Syria, for example, have taken 6 to 9 months to make their census results official.

"Also, before, during and after the census I declared that the results on the legal population would not be available till the end of February 1983, a time limit that was met. The results went directly from the computer to the staff of the Royal Cabinet and the prime minister. The publication date of the results was Wednesday 6 April 1983 and was set according to the working calendar of the council of government.

"As for the 'real' population level of Morocco, you have not taken the trouble to verify what you report, namely: 'specialists and international organizations give Morocco a population of at least 26 million.' First, neither I nor, probably, any of your readers, know what international organizations you are talking about. If you have any documents available, and I doubt that any exist, I would appreciate your publishing them.

"As for the plausibility of 'at least 26 million people,' simple arithmetic would show that the population of Morocco would have had to grow at a rate of more than 5 percent a year over the past decade to reach that number. That rate has never been achieved, at least by human beings.

"Earlier you asked 'With what facts does the government expect to contradict the projections and estimates of specialists and international organizations?'

"This question displays twofold ignorance on your part: first, ignorance of the sources of basic data used by these specialists and organizations. The data can come only from government offices and mainly from my department. Second, there is ignorance of the technique of projections. The rate of population increase is the basis for projections, but it is merely a tool that can be revised at each census. The rate of increase for Morocco used in the intercensus period of 1971-82 was calculated on the basis of data from the end of the intercensus period 1960-71.

"For this purpose, the rate of increase does not take into account the fact of international migration.

"You think that with an official population of 20,419,555 in 1983 'when there were already ('officially') more than 15 million in 1971' that that 'yields a rate of reproduction that puts us in the same category as countries where procreation is a problem, such as Norway, Sweden and Iceland.' This assertion is in fact illogical and nonsensical, because if Morocco had had a rate of increase similar to that of one of the countries mentioned for 1971-82, our population would have reached only 15,800,000 by September 1982.

"Now, with a legal population of 20,419,555 censused as of midnight 3 September 1982, Morocco has a growth rate greater than that of India, 1.9 percent; Indonesia, 1.6 percent; Egypt, 2.4 percent; China, 1.3 percent; Brazil, 2.3 percent, etc. The reader can thus judge for himself the 'veracity' and 'plausibility' of the statements made by the author of the editorial; this author has shown complete ignorance not only of demographic methods but also of journalistic procedure, which requires that he check his facts beforehand.

"As for the population of Casablanca, which the author sets at about 4 million (instead of 2,139,204) on the basis of alleged 'leaks and rumors,' he has used an approach that is unscientific and journalistically unprofessional.

"As for the problem of birth control, you are not unaware of the fact that my department advocates the opposite, because any policy that tends to lower population growth would run counter to our Islamic values and our country's political, economic and cultural interests.

"On the basis of the foregoing, the serious accusation of 'dissimulation of truth' is a libel against the thousands of sworn civil servants who have participated in this national task. The results of the census as they emerged from the computer--printed out in Arabic for the first time in Moroccan history--were sent directly to the government without any intermediary step. The government has published the results just as hundreds of sworn technicians and agents received them from the computer.

"Despite the consequences that your editorial may incur, my department is available to your newspaper for any information and explanations that may be desired in this area."

#### Rebuttal to Government Response

Casablanca AL BAYANE in French 22 Apr 83 pp 1-2

[Article by Nadir Yata: "Behind the Census, Development: Elements for a Debate"; passages in slantlines are emphasized in the text]

[Text] Demographic questions very often raise bitter debates (Malthus went through one), debates that appear to contradict the objective nature of the problems being examined and the mathematical rigor with which they must be treated.

But there is no surprise in the rapidity and emphasis with which the ministry of Planning insisted upon responding, in our own columns, to the AL BAYANE editorial of 8 April published under the headline "Doubtful Figures?"

As everyone will understand, the subject is definitely too important to be left to the demographic "experts."

The last general population census and its results belong to the country and thus offer the chance to have a /political/ and not strictly technical debate on the country's actual situation, its level of development and the real future of the Moroccan people.



## Questioning Does Not Mean Taking Sides

This newspaper has decided to contribute to the debate by exercising its right to ask questions and to serve as a medium for legitimate questions from many citizens about the procedures and results of the national census. Our approach is a familiar one: to ask measured and responsible questions of the "deciders," and to ask for clarifications, explanations and further information.

Reread the editorial of 8 April. There is not a single affirmation in it. AL BAYANE used the interrogative form exclusively from the headline to the last sentence of the conclusion, explaining that it was not its purpose "to start a drumhead court-martial of official experts or get mileage out of quantified data that has not been made public."

As a press representative that wants to learn more and then tell more, AL BAYANE asked exactly 12 questions that it thinks deserve convincing answers. This newspaper has been reproached for having made "fallacious statements" and "scientifically unfounded assertions"; but this newspaper has /affirmed absolutely nothing/. It has merely expressed the wish that credible facts and solid arguments be made available to public opinion; otherwise, the officials involved will be exposing themselves to the risk of "giving the impression that the real census figures have been underestimated and that the truth has been covered up."

What are we being blamed for? For having set down in black and white the questions that everybody is asking?

Pascal said that "doubt is liberating"; we, now, think that doubt is part of the arsenal of democratic discussion.

Here is a census carried out in September 1982 through the tremendous mobilization of thousands of loyal and devoted public servants.

Here are three ministers who have tackled an exceptionally large task with the help of all their fellow public officials. Here was a population informed many times of the counting operation before it began, aware of the patriotic nature of the task and of the necessity to help it succeed. Here was a new census being taken 11 years after the previous one, a census that, it was explained, would be done by computer. In short, this was an event of national scope, an event in the life of society, and an operation of prime importance.

And they wanted a patriotic, progressive newspaper to give the results of this historic event in three lines on a back page and be satisfied to repeat the disappointing agency releases without doing a "double take," when these press releases are so terse as to be bare?

That was not possible. As we have said, the consequences of this census are quite political and involve all of the country and its citizens.

Indeed, implicit in the issue of the census is a problem that concerns all responsible groups concerned with the national interest: /How is Morocco managing the relationship between population growth and economic development under the present circumstances and with the present political orientation?/

In Good Company

This is the decisive question that the census results will help answer.

The PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism] and its newspaper, AL BAYANE, are not in the habit of playing worst-case politics or putting things in a bad light for their own purposes. They insist seriously and maturely on relying on concrete data to approve of what is worthy or criticize what needs to be criticized. Following the example of all those who are devoted to the rightly understood interests of the country and people, they also want to be able to make credible proposals and present an alternative that can be achieved because it is realistic. They must therefore appeal to verified, authentic facts in order to propose coherent change. From this viewpoint, they cannot escape the necessity--nor can public opinion--of obtaining sure and verified information. They want to understand the situation correctly. Respect for democratic rules thus requires that the discussion not be "loaded" and that all information not be manipulated and be given to the country and its active organizations. Under these conditions, how can anyone keep a newspaper from seeking to do its duty by asking questions and cross-checking--a technique dear to journalists--official information?

That is what was done in the editorial of 8 April.

True, we have had the signal honor of an "explanation." But we were not the only ones to puzzle over the figures that were released.

Mr Moulay Ahmed Alawi, in a noted editorial in MATIN DU SAHARA dated 15 April, echoed some reactions. The minister of state thus reports that /"these results have been greeted with surprise by some, astonishment by others, and by some others, indignation"/.

Our colleague Mr Ahmed Anwal, writing in AL MAGHRIB, issue No 1788 of 16 April 1983, reports ironically that /"the results of the general census, as far as the economic capital is concerned, have caused a veritable fascination with the science of numbers in Casablanca"/. This newspaper says, in the same article, that /"As for public rumor, neither this figure nor official estimates have succeeded in determining very exactly the demographic facts about greater Casablanca"/.

Let us then avoid a debate that is sterile because it is skewed and unequal, where some people would have all the data in their exclusive, monopolistic possession and the others, only their good faith and thirst for democratic information.

What the Experts Say

If we must really supply statistics and percentages, we will of course present the admittedly limited information that has made us ask questions we still consider legitimate and well founded.

We have expressed a certain amazement because:

(1) All experts, both national and foreign, agree in saying that the population of Morocco has undergone unprecedented growth in recent decades.

(2) According to estimates in the publication "The Population of Morocco," written by INSEA [National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics] and based on references from what was in 1974 (the date the work appeared) the Delegation for Planning and Regional Development, Morocco would have /more than 100 million inhabitants/ by 2070 if its population continued to grow at its current rate.

(3) Mr Mohamed Rachid, an expert demographer who is something of an authority (see his book "Demographic Growth and Economic Development in Morocco," Editions Mithaq al-Maghrib, 1981), and who does not exactly subscribe to our manner of thinking, estimates that the population of Morocco will exceed 50 million by the year 2000.

(4) According to projections made by Planning specialists in charge of drawing up the 5-year plan for 1973-78, the projected fertility rate was about 42 per 1,000 between 1980 and 1985, provided there were a natural drop in the fertility rate (which used to be about 50 per 1,000). Assuming the government instituted a birth-control policy, national Planning officials hoped that the fertility rate would be brought down to 37 per 1,000 in 1980-85.

(5) Up to the end of the 1970's, all the experts agreed in estimating the Moroccan population's growth rate at over 3 percent. Mr Rachidi reports in his book (p 28) that "figures are often worked out at 3.3 or 3.5 percent, and the rate may reach 4.6 percent a year by the end of the century."

Experts in the division of Planning and Economic Studies credited Morocco with a rate of population increase of 3.5 percent in 1971-75 and dropping to 3.1 percent between 1975 and 1990; in the best case it could not be less than 2.95 percent in 1971-80 if a vigorous birth control policy were implemented.

(6) Still according to the specialists, whom the minister is more familiar with than we are, the birth rate did not really have to drop; the reduction in mortality is /"one of the dominant demographic characteristics of Morocco"/, says Mohamed Rachidi (op. cit., p 35).

As we have said, this information is admittedly too fragmentary to fault the results of a census that we know to be serious, but it does suffice to raise questions and has led us to ask these questions.

It goes without saying that there is another batch of information, much less reliable, which we call "rumors" and which has caught our attention. At the Planning ministry, it is treated with scorn, and we are even given lessons in journalistic ethics. But each has his own job to do. A "rumor" should be reported--with proper caution--by the press. This allows the officials concerned to rectify the facts by disproving the rumor with correct information. There is no other way of going about it in a system where information is released by word of mouth and no one has even thought of calling a press conference to present the official census results to the national media.

## The Experts Propose, the Census Disposes

In any case, national opinion will have to decide for itself. The census results are still very incomplete (the rest will come in one or even two years, it seems). Those that have been published tell us that the rate of population increase is only 2.6 percent, whereas all the experts agreed on a forecast of more than 3 percent. So the experts were wrong. And the forecasts were also wrong, that is, the ones that were leaning toward a population of more than 40 million by the year 2000. At the present official rate, it will be no more than 30 million. And LE MATIN DU SAHARA was also wrong when it wrote in No 4159 of 1 April in an article on p 5 concerning the Casablanca area of Ben M'sik-Sidi Othman that it has "1.1 million people." Wrong, wrong. Everybody's wrong. The census has decided. So be it.

We, however, are looking forward to the publication of corroborative figures and statistics: the birth rate, the death rate, the rate of school attendance, both rural and urban. We will ask about housing, the illiteracy rate, and the percentage of the working population relative to the non-working population. We hope there will be explanations of official policy: for or against birth control? For or against family planning? That is, the planning that was made an objective in the 5-year plan of 1968-72 and for which two Dahirs [decrees] were adopted, the first one establishing the Higher Commission on Population and the other one repealing all the provisions of the Penal Code forbidding birth-control propaganda.

### No Spring, No Development

The debate is certainly not over. Its importance remains, and we have a democratic right to ask for an accounting.

What portion of national income has been allotted to what specialists call "demographic investment"?

If population growth is what it is officially said to be, what efforts have been made to avoid a decline in living standards, to favor the development of productive forces and to increase the production of national wealth, in order to allot a part of it to social investment?

What has new investment been? And what has the rate of increase of industrialization been, if only as a response to the effects of the rural exodus?

Where are the new housing, hospitals, schools, adequate transportation, roads and canals? How much is national capital being expanded, as is indispensable, to meet the needs of the "20,419,555" inhabitants of the country (and the others, as some wags say)?

"One swallow does not make a spring." Nor does one census make for development. We know that already and don't need any "explanations."

(signed) Nadir Yata

P.S. Does there really exist a single civil servant who really believes we have cast doubt upon his honesty or integrity for participating in the recent census?!

## BRIEFS

LOAN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA--Rabat, 7 May (MAP)--An agreement under the terms of which Canada is granting Morocco a loan of 15 million Canadian dollars was signed in Rabat Friday by Finance Minister Abdellatif Jouahri and Canadian Minister of State for External Relations Charles Lapointe, who is at present visiting Morocco. Mr Abdellatif Jouahri took this opportunity to state that the agreement will help strengthen bilateral relations and will enable Morocco to carry out several economic projects. The Canadian minister for his part expressed his wish to see Moroccan-Canadian cooperation extended to other spheres and noted with satisfaction the constant efforts being made by Canadian and Moroccan officials to strengthen the traditional relations which exist between the two countries. [Excerpt]  
[PM131428 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 7 May 83 pp 1, 5]

CSC: 4500/228

## WESTERN SAHARA

### MOROCCO-POLISARIO CONTACT SEEN IN MAGHREB CONTEXT

PM230926 Paris LE MATIN in French 19 May 83 p 12

[Jean-Louis Peninou report: "Sahara: Algeria in Search of 'Maghreb Solution'"]

[Excerpts] A high-level meeting recently took place between representatives of the Polisario and the Moroccan state. This meeting, hitherto kept secret, does not however seem likely to lead rapidly to formal negotiations on the eve of the festivities which the Polisario is organizing in the Tindouf region this weekend.

The news, confirmed to us by several unofficial sources, could open a new chapter in the already long and tormented history of attempts to end this interminable desert war. This direct contact--which took place without any intermediary being present--is apparently the first since the series of secret meetings which produced no result in 1979.

Less than 3 months ago the summit meeting between Algerian President Bendjedid and Moroccan King Hassan II gave a spectacular illustration of the two countries' desire to restore a dialogue. The 26 February summit, planned during direct meetings in Paris last fall between Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi and A. Guedira and Colonel Dlimi, two of the Moroccan king's close advisers, agreed on a gradual normalization of relations between the two countries.

Since then progress has been very slow, but there has been progress. The borders have been partly opened. Official delegations have exchanged visits. Some cooperation projects are taking shape. And preparations are being made to exchange ambassadors. Morocco has already virtually chosen its ambassador: Ahmed Ben Souda, who is close to the king.

The scale of the distrust built up and the desire not to lose face explain this slowness by the two "fraternal" countries in restoring normal relations. But, above all, there can be no real detente in the absence of progress on the Saharan question, which is at the heart of the conflict between the two countries.

The West Sahara was not officially discussed during the Chadli-Hassan summit. The Algerians--anxious not to seem to abandon their Saharan allies--were very anxious for this outward show.

In fact it was discussed at length. Hassan II explained to Bendjedid that he now thought there was no future in the path opened up within the OAU framework (a referendum on self-determination) and that it would be better to organize a meeting between the Polisario and pro-Moroccan Saharans to establish a "Saharan entity," which would maintain "only the Moroccan flag and stamp." He suggested that two levels of negotiations be established in this way, one between Algeria and Morocco and the other among Saharans. In so doing Hassan II was outlining a line of conduct drawn up a few days earlier in Rabat, with several prominent Moroccans approached about playing a role in these future negotiations.

Bendjedid apparently replied to the king that he thought it impossible to abandon the idea of an independent Saharan state. Why not rather seek a "solution in a Maghreb framework" which would enable everybody to save face, he stated, before adding that Algeria was prepared to make economic and political concessions in that framework. And he talked about routing an Algerian European gas pipeline through Morocco, exporting Algerian iron through Moroccan ports, jointly exploiting the Bou Craa phosphates, and so forth.

Since 26 February Algeria has not missed an opportunity of praising the "Great Arab Maghreb." Tunisia's Bourguiba--a major supporter--made it known that he was prepared to back the attempt by signing important agreements with Algeria last month.

In this context the secret meeting between the Polisario and Moroccan representatives takes on the significance of a good will gesture by Hassan II, while the two sides' positions still seem far apart.

CSO: 4500/223



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE STRIVES TO IMPROVE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Apr 83 p 8

[Interview with Dr Isma'il al-'Azzawi, undersecretary of the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform by Muhyi-al-Din Jasim: "Extensive Plans and Programs to Develop Animal Resources"]

[Text] As victories have been won by the troops of the Leader Saddam Husayn over the ignorant Iranian enemy, the agricultural and farming agencies have succeeded in raising the modes of agricultural production both in crops and livestock, which in turn has reinforced these victories over that group of expansionist, deceitful, superstitious Iranians. The special agency within the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform has been active in increasing the country's production as part of the ministry's strategy to reach the principal goals of its future developmental plans for animal resources.

Dr Isma'il al-'Azzawi, undersecretary at the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform, spoke about animal resources: "The Ministry set out to prepare its special program to develop animal resources in the country on the basis of putting the principal markets in the state's hands and giving the private sector the operations to run actual production. In order to achieve this goal, the fields, special livestock breeding stations, and livestock centers have been reorganized and changed from small servicing centers and stations to large stations in order to concentrate the numbers of improved animals for the breeders in the country. These centers have been situated in appropriate geographical sites and the goals for which these stations were intended have been reached to the point where four principal centers have been designated to distribute on an average 20 thousand head of sheep to each station. These stations are al-Hamza, al-Shatrah, al-Suwayrah, al-Khajiyah, and Daquq. Also one station in the governorate of Dahuk has been specially set aside to distribute goats in addition to the other stations specializing in distributing lambs and yearlings to farmers at token prices. These others are 7 Nisan, al-Nahrawan, al-Wahdah, First and Second Kusaybah, Musayyib I, II, and III, First and Second al-Khalis, al-Ishaqi, Abu Gharib, and al-Dujaylah."

The undersecretary added that these stations have planned goals such as propagating milk cows, increasing milk production, distributing improved males or bulls, and other measures the ministry authorized more than a year ago in applying the Animal Resources Protection Law. Its application has been carried out

in the villages of Hamman al-'Alil in Ninawva Governorate where a flood control dam was completed, and it has been carried out by exchanging the male animals of those regions with new ones as part of an experimental plan to improve the strains of sheep and goats. This has actually permitted a large number of al-Shami, white al-Satan, and al-Hankurahmilk goats from Dahuk station to be set aside for the autonomous districts. The results and yields have been positive in this field.

The undersecretary added: "As for developing poultry, orders were previously issued to increase productivity in the hatcheries belonging to the ministry to where their production right at this moment has attained 883 million eggs in addition to what the private producers can produce, namely 145 million eggs. There are measures which aim at supplying meat also, since the opportunity was made available to raise birds for meat in the country, since the number of eggs hatched inside incubators this year for this particular purpose has reached 200 million. It is to be hoped that this will produce some 140 thousand tons of chicken. The need to increase the feed production farms was taken into consideration beforehand in order to fill the feed requirements of this number of chickens, so there would be the required abundant and sufficient amounts of feed-stuffs. Likewise the necessary arrangements were made to ensure health care, to provide vaccines, and especially to have vaccines against Newcastle disease."

"In addition to that," interjected the deputy, "the ministry has taken upon itself the production of laying hens, and clear efforts and plans for egg laying hens and meat birds so that there has been coordination of these efforts with some foreign universities which aims at achieving economical results. Steps taken on this plane have not been foreshortened but rather at the same time a special working report on animal health has been circulated about the use of artificial insemination, continuing health examinations, the setting up of veterinary clinics, and increasing the number of veterinarians and assistants, and supplying medications and vaccines as the veterinarian services aim to combat the diseases and epidemics that afflict animals and by their very nature cause great devastation. This devastation results from inadequate health services since, according to modern scientific indications, one veterinarian and three middle-level assistants and two technicians must be provided to give complete veterinary services to every 5,000 large animals, or every 25 thousand small animals, or every 300 thousand laying hens, or 800 thousand fowl."

Dr Isma'il al-'Azzawi said in response to a question on the measures taken to develop fish resources that currently studies of this subject are being completed, and attention and regulations have been given on this subject. These are concentrating on enlarging and establishing tanks and breeding pools. A working paper has already been prepared on both these aspects in which both the socialist and private sectors are participating with the aim of promoting the construction of tanks and special pools. As a result of that the number of these tanks and pools has reached 474 private pools that provide an average capacity of between 5 and 170 dunums producing annually nearly 200 tons of al-Iraqi (river) fish and al-Karib fish. These projects are able to procure ensured amounts of their local feed through the necessary support and encouragement of the specialized agencies of the ministry.

In response to a question about ensuring the necessary feed in the country, Mr al-'Azzawi said: "The ministry has previously applied itself on the subject of feed on two important points: firstly, setting up an extensive campaign to plant yellow sorghum in the central region of the country with a view to the importance of the crop and to supply sufficient amounts of locally grown corn and wheat, and secondly, the employ fertilizer and to increase the focus on fodder crops, to distribute the necessary seeds to farmers and their assistants, and to encourage them to plant these important crops while accommodating and supplying feed."

Dr al-'Azzawi, when asked if there was joint Arab cooperation, said: "The relations concluded between the ministry's agencies and the representatives of the Arab-Agricultural Company resulted in the country's participation in the company's capital by buying 10,000 shares whose value is 10 million dinars. This company aims to develop agricultural resources, both crops and animals, that will free agriculture from its characteristic dependence on the idea of eternal oil. It has as its participants the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Arab Emirates, Jordan, Qatar, and Sudan, as well as Iraq. Also there are other joint Arab cooperation activities for developing animal resources by means of the state's participation in the Iraqi Arab Company for Development of Animal Resources, headquartered in Baghdad, which was incorporated with a capital stock of 8 million dinars. It owns a large animal husbandry station in this country so that Iraq's participation in this country is fundamental so that one of the animal husbandry stations in this country has been designated to be for this company. Preparations in the south of the country are under way and the grounds needed for building these stations have already been allocated. So that the activities of the company's operations are conducted in a manner that will achieve national and pan-Arab success, 6000 dunams already have been allocated to this same company from the governorate of Babil, more precisely in the region of al-Kifl in pursuit of its operations. He said in closing that the ministry through its higher central directives is striving for Arab cooperation and coordination between the Arab countries, whether in the field of agriculture or in development of animal resources, and is putting all its experience and powers in the service of the nationalist course."

9587

CSO: 4404/342

## ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES INCREASED DRASTICALLY

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Apr 83 pp 1, 15

[Article by Gabi Kessler" 'Ministers', MKs', Judges' Salaries Go up this Month by 67 Percent"]

[Text] Salaries of government ministers, their deputies, Knesset members, general managers working for the state and judges will go up this month by 67 percent compared to March.

This drastic raise in salaries of elected officials results from the updating of their pay which is linked to the average pay in the country. According to this month's updating, the prime minister will make 120,000 shekels per month before taxes. The president will receive 60,000 shekels (the president does not pay income tax, hence this is net income). The highest state salary goes to the president of the supreme court, who will receive in April 170,000 shekels before taxes.

According to the decision of the finance committee, the salaries of ministers, Knesset members and judges is linked to the average salary in the economy. This updating is done twice a year, in April and in October, and it comes in addition to the cost of living raise paid to elected officials as well as to all public employees. Last year (April 82-April 83) the salary of ministers and Knesset members went up by 410 percent--a real rise of 3 percent, comparable to the rise of the average wages.

According to Bituah Leumi (social security) calculations, the average gross wages in the economy in April reached 26,957 shekels, compared to 11,233 shekels in April 82.

Here are the salaries of the senior officials of Israel:

The president will receive in April a monthly net salary of 59,993 shekels, compared to 42,250 shekels last month.

The prime minister and the Knesset chairman will receive 131,000 shekels gross (this includes base salary, cost of living and expenses.)

Government ministers, the governor of the Bank of Israel and the state controller will receive in April 108,000 shekels gross.

Deputy ministers, Knesset members and general managers of government offices will get 102,000 shekels gross.

The president of the supreme court will receive 168,000 shekels gross. Supreme court justices and chief rabbis will receive 153,000 shekels (this includes base salary, cost of living and seniority raises for 25 years).

9565

CSO: 4423/126

## NEW IDF EDUCATION CENTER DEDICATED

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 20 Apr 83 p 6

[Text] The central education village of the IDF named after the later Yigal Alon was dedicated yesterday morning in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, Chief of Staff Refael Etan, Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin, Ruth Alon, IDF officers and hundreds of guests from Israel and abroad. The ceremony was started by Nazerat 'Illit Mayor Menahem Ariav who said it was a great privilege for his town that the IDF's central education village was established within its limits on Mount Yona facing Har Gevorah, near Nazareth. Brig Gen (Ret) Natan Nir, chairman of the Association for the Welfare of Soldiers, thanked the thousands of contributors to the village and said that the planning and building will start immediately after the dedication. Chief of Staff Etan who made his last public appearance said that Yigal Alon, after whom the village is named, was a leader, an educator and a laborer. He expressed three wishes: That the village will be soon completed, that it will be built by Hebrew hands, and that in a few years it will not be needed. Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin said that the IDF is the only army in the world which does not teach its soldiers to hate the enemy and does not cultivate such hatred. He thanked the chief of staff for his contribution to the IDF and to the nation, especially in the area of education. Deputy Prime Minister Levi said that the building of the educational village was a festive day not only for the IDF but for the Galilee and for all Israelis. He thanked the retiring chief of staff and said that "although we often disagreed, Rafi remains Rafi and I thank him in my name and in the name of all the people." The complex will take 5 years to complete and will cost more than \$60 million. It will bring together all the educational facilities of the IDF scattered throughout Israel and will include 4 schools and a sports center. The planners estimate that the project will provide work for 800 families from Nazareth and the Galilee.

9565

CSO: 4423/126

PALESTINIAN YOUTH RALLY FOR VOLUNTEER WORK ON LAND

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Apr 83 p 7

[Article: "Cooperative Work by Palestinians in Bir Zayt: 900 Persons Reclaim and Plant 300 Dunams of Land"]

[Text]--Last March the 25th day of the month was Palestinian Cooperative Work Day at the new campus of Bir Zayt University. And on the 30th of the same month a day of volunteer work was held on the occasion of Land Day. A huge project was completed, and it involved the reclamation of about 300 dunams of land, planting the land with forest trees, and putting a fence around the university campus. These two days turned out to be a total success, in spite of the many obstacles faced by those who undertook and participated in the work involved.

Our correspondent met with a number of those people who supervised the preparations for this large project. One of them was Dr Ghassan (Farmand), head of the Student Affairs Office, who had the following to say: "The objective of having Palestinian Cooperative Work Day at Bir Zaty University was to reaffirm the university's role of serving our nation and to have this day become an annual tradition involving the participation of most of the social and volunteer work committees from all parts of the occupied territories. This is the first time we have seen participation of this kind. Furthermore, this day served as a living and tangible embodiment of cooperative work in this area of our nation which is dear to our hearts.

"Preparations for this day, which saw the participation of about 900 persons from the Cooperative Work Committee in the Student Council, were accomplished in cooperation with the university's cooperative work supervisor.

"The work accomplished included the planting of forest trees, cleaning up the area on the mountain surrounding the new university campus, and marking off the campus area by means of a wire fence. "As for Land Day, this occasion saw the participation of all of the university's administrative bodies, the Office of Student Affairs, the Workers' Union, and the Student Council. Those who worked on Land Day finished the work that had been begun on Palestinian Cooperative Work Day."

When assessing the work that had been done during these two days and the achievements which had been accomplished, Dr (Farmand) said: "It was a very



positive phenomenon to have all of the representative bodies in the university participate in work of this type. This is something which lays the foundation for the concept of bringing the land back to life and not allowing it to become barren and dry. What we accomplished is something which expresses the interaction which is going on between us and our beloved land. The festival which was held on Land Day after the work was finished was a splendid way to recognize the tremendous efforts that had been expended. It was a truly Palestinian celebration."

'Ali Hassunah, the person responsible for sponsoring cooperative work in the university, said: "The number of persons participating in Cooperative Work Day was about 900. This figure included 370 persons from the university, 120 persons from the Gaza Strip, and 460 persons from various volunteer and cooperative work committees in the West Bank. Hundreds of other people intending to participate were not able to arrive because inspection points had been set up and eight buses were not allowed through and were turned back.

"The Cooperative Work Committee in the Student Council sent invitations to all of the work committees in the Gaza Strip, the Federation of Youth Committees, the Higher Volunteer Work Committee, the 76 Committees, and the other volunteer work committees. The aim was to have these committees realize their aspiration to participate in joint work dedicated to unity. But because of the difficult circumstances involved, this unity of forces was only achieved on Palestinian Cooperative Work Day at the new campus of Bir Zaty University. I consider, and rightly so, that this was a first important step along the road toward unification of all of the volunteer organizations within the framework of a single and effective organizational framework which will be able to overcome cruel and adverse circumstances."

Concerning the achievements which were accomplished during that day, Hassunah said: "The project was one which involved the reclamation of lands belonging to the new campus. This required the participation of large numbers of volunteers to uproot thorn bushes, remove rocks and stones, plant forest trees--and 800 forest tree seedlings were actually planted--and fence off the area occupied by the university campus.

"This work amounted to a great accomplishment because it was the first time that all of the cooperative and volunteer work committees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip came together. The work was done over an area totalling 300 dunamas of land surrounding the new university campus. And in spite of the difficulties which were beyond the control of everyone, their resolution and determination enabled them to overcome these difficulties."

Concerning Land Day, Hassunah said: "This work represented the completion of the work begun on Palestinian Cooperative Work Day. The objective was to embody the eternal spirit of Land Day. The participants numbered approximately 700, and they included students, professors, workers, and administrators of the university. In addition to this, 150 volunteers from among the students participated in the project involving reclamation of lands at Baytillu which are being threatened with confiscation. The

culmination of the work was a national festival during which several speeches were given. The speakers emphasized the importance of keeping up the land and not abandoning it, no matter what the circumstances are. In addition to this, some Palestinian songs were sung by Walid 'Abd-al-Salam and 'Awdat Turjuman."

Nayif Suwaytat, secretary general of the student council at Bir Zayt University, said the following: "It was under the slogan 'the land has called out to us, and we are responding to this call' that everyone came together to accomplish this work. They came from the Youth Committees for Social Work and the Volunteer Work Committees, and they were students from Bir Zayt University. They came together on the occasion of this celebration of labor and donating one's efforts to the land belonging to Bir Zayt University because they wanted to respond to the appeal of their motherland and wanted to do the duty expected of them.

"They worked on the land with their own hands during this day of celebration of the land, thereby declaring that the land is something which represents their spirit and their life.

"We of the Student Council of Bir Zayt University assumed the initiative of holding Palestinian Cooperative Work Day, with the objective of turning this into a tradition recognized by all of our organizations, associations, and committees. We are going to work toward having this great day celebrated from now on in [the future]. "On behalf of all of the students of Bir Zayt University, we would like to express our gratitude to the youth committees and volunteer work committees for their active participation. We would also like to express our gratitude to the delegations of people from the Gaza Strip who managed to come here in spite of the road block." Qasim 'Izzat, secretary of the Cooperative Work Committee in the Student Council, said: "Cooperative work is something which is urgently necessary and should be supported by our nationwide mass organizations in order to serve all of the sectors of our population during these times of difficult circumstances which our people are living through. Palestinian Cooperative Work Day has now become a national tradition which should be repeated [every year] throughout our history and the history of the existence of the Palestinian people. This is why the Cooperative Work Committee in the Student Council took it upon itself to invite all of the volunteer and cooperative organizations to have their members give their efforts on behalf of this day. The fact is that all of these organizations, without exception, responded to the call and came, in spite of the obstacles which arose because of repressive circumstances." Concerning his assessment of Palestinian Cooperative Work Day, 'Izzat said: "This day was able to accomplish most of the objective which we had in mind and which we hoped to achieve. The objective was to gather together all of the volunteers from the various existing volunteer organizations from the various areas of the occupied territories and have them participate in a Palestinian celebration which would be long remembered in the history of our successful university. We will strive to establish this day as a national tradition which our people should be concerned about, should develop, and should bring up to a level which will be even better and more perfect."

Ra'fat Husni, member of the Cooperative Work Committee in the Student Council, had the following to say: "My opinion of 25 March is that it was a day which was tantamount to a process of unifying and organizing the framework for all of the broad sectors of our Palestinian people. Those who participated did so as a single unit and within a single framework of united action. It embodied the spirit of giving and it strengthened our spirit of labor and our national unity. This day was able to accomplish all of the objectives which we had in mind since there was an obvious spirit of cooperation among the participants. This was the first successful experiment in Palestinian cooperative work dedicated to unity. We hope that this work will become an established tradition which will be repeated every year in all of our regions."

9468

CSO: 4404/340

BEDOUIN LAND EXPROPRIATED BY ISRAELI ARMY

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 16 Apr 83 p 4

[Article: "After the Expropriation of 100,000 Dunams of Land in Tel Malhata and Expulsion of Its Inhabitants: The Men of the Green Patrols Are Preparing to Confiscate the Lands of the People of Tel 'Arad and Expel Them From These Lands"]

[Text] Orders were given to evacuate the area, bullets were fired, and tanks drove over and destroyed the crop lands!

Rahit--Last Tuesday a force consisting of men from the Green Patrols and the Israeli Army swooped down upon the Bedouin housing complex in Tel 'Arad and ordered the inhabitants to vacate the area starting at 7 am on Wednesday, 13 April [and to be out by] 14 [April]. The pretext was that the army intended to hold military maneuvers in the area.

It was learned that the men from the Israeli Army and the Green Patrols mounted an attack against the peaceful inhabitants. In provocative and random fashion, they fired shots inside the housing complex and alongside the houses.

In addition to this, army tanks drove over the crop lands and destroyed them, and this shows that their real objective was other than the one which was stated.

As we know, the inhabitants of the housing complex at Tel 'Arad--who number about 3,000 persons and who live to the east of Tel Malhata, whose inhabitants were ordered to vacate their houses and lands, the area of which totals more than 100,000 dunams--have been subjected to all types of harrassment for many years.

The inhabitants see this new pretext given by the army as merely a malicious attempt to force them to leave their lands and hand them over to the Israeli Army. They reaffirm their opposition to this action and their adherence to their land. They say that all such acts of terrorism will not succeed in dissuading them from holding on to their land.

At the same time they are demanding that the army cease these acts of terrorism in which it is engaging and remove its soldiers from the area.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORTED UP 134 PERCENT

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Apr 83 p 8

[Article by Shraga Maqel: "Prices in 1982-83 Went up by 134 Percent"]

[Text] The consumer price index for March went up 5.6 percent. Since the beginning of 1983 the index went up 21.6 percent. Thus, in the 1983-83 budget year prices went up 134 percent, the worst inflation in the history of Israel. The March index is the highest of any past March indexes.

A comparison of the first quarter of 1983 to past years presents the following picture: In the first quarter of 1980 the index went up 18.4 percent; in 1981, 18.6 percent; in 1982, 20.3 percent; and in 1983, 21.6 percent.

Noticeable in March and during all of last year is the high rise in cost of fruits and vegetables. In March the price of produce went up 10.5 percent. Food went up 6.2 percent. Housing and cigarettes raised the index in March by going up 21 percent.

In the 12 months, fruits and vegetables went up an unprecedented 224 percent compared to 134 percent for the general index. Food prices went up last year by 144 percent. Education, culture and entertainment went up a high 142 percent, and health services 137 percent. Housing went up 120 percent. Furniture and house items went up 124 percent. Clothing and shoes, transportation, mail and house maintenance went up 114-116 percent.

Dwelling construction input prices rose only 2.5 percent in March. Since the beginning of the year this index went up by 20.2 percent. In March, on the other hand, industry wholesale prices went up 7.3 percent, with the highest rise in wholesale prices of clothing--34 percent (outer garments went up 60 percent). This rise, which will filter down to the consumer, promises high cost for clothing in the early summer, and the April index will show this rise as well as the rise of municipal taxes, housing and the payment of cost of living increase. The index this month should go up 8-10 percent.

Following the rise of the March index the monthly expenses of the average family in Israel today are 30,400 shekels.

## BRIEFS

RAMALLAH LAND TAKEOVER--The day before yesterday Israeli authorities confiscated 2,000 dunams of land belonging to the village of (Jibiya), located north of Ramallah. These are agricultural lands, and are known by the name of "Makr al-Sud"- Basin 3. The authorities also confiscated thousands of dunams of land belonging to the two villages of al-Nabi Salih and Umm Safa, north of Ramallah. The owners of these lands intend to bring their case to the appropriate courts. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Apr 83 p 1] 9468

CSO: 4404/340

KUWAIT

'KUNA' CITES 'AMERICAN OFFICIALS' ON LEBANON, ISRAEL, SYRIA

LD241213 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 24 May 83

["KUNA analysis" by Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, 24 May (KUNA)--Between the daily barrage of optimism emanating from Washington about the likelihood of a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon and the categoric pessimism prevailing in the region, there appears to be a thin line--labelled here as diplomatic/tactic--which can tip the balance either way at the end of the day, given time and more diplomatic wrangling between Moscow, Washington, Damascus and Beirut.

To date, Washington has adopted a firm stand in maintaining an open line of communication with Damascus, refusing to take no as the final answer despite the vehement rhetoric coming out of Damascus.

Syria, by contrast, escalating its opposition to the Lebanese-Israeli accord on a daily basis, continues to maintain a firm rejectionist approach: No yielding to Arab fence-mending, no wheeling-dealing with the U.S. Government, and no to withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon as long as the Lebanese-Israeli accord remains in effect.

The key question being discussed in Washington is whether Syria will push this rejectionist stand a few steps further on the ground. Is it ready to risk a confrontation with the Israelis in the al-Biqa' after receiving still unknown secret pledges from Moscow? Will Damascus prod its supporters in Lebanon into an armed rebellion against the Beirut regime? Will President Hafiz al-Asad regime declare the areas under its control in Lebanon "liberated areas," as has been hinted at in the Syrian press?

Judging from the information Reagan administration officials have at present, the answer is no to all three questions. They argue that the Syrians as well as the Russians know well that the Syrian Armed Forces are no match to the Israelis and in the event of a military confrontation, the Israelis will deal a crippling blow to the Syrians.

American officials also believe that Syria will not push its supporters into an armed revolt against the Lebanese regime as this will equally give the excuse to the Israelis to maintain their forces in Lebanon, let alone expand



their presence to other parts of the country that have so far been saved from the Israeli presence. The same argument goes for declaring areas under Syrian control as "liberated territories."

The alternatives being now considered by Secretary of State George Shultz are more rewarding, according to Reagan administration officials. One official described them bluntly as "two carrots and one stick." The latter will not be brandished except as a final option, "when the two carrots are turned down by Damascus."

The first offer being transmitted to the Syrians through diplomatic channels relates to security matters. The Reagan administration, acting through the Government of Lebanon, is ready to grant Syria certain security guarantees in all areas bordering Lebanon that Damascus feels can pose a threat to its security from the Israelis--mainly the areas in the south of Lebanon bordering the Arqoub region and part of the eastern al-Biqa'.

Administration officials express confidence that they will be able to convince the Israelis to accept such guarantees, including ones related to joint Syrian-Lebanese patrols acting as observation teams to prevent any Israeli infiltration. In addition, Washington is working on an aid package to Syria that they believe the Syrian economy is badly in need of. But officials here stress that such a package will not come from the U.S. Government--since Congress will not pass it in the present atmosphere--but through the oil-rich Arab countries, mainly from Saudi Arabia.

American officials have reason to believe that Syria will be open to such aid. They recall that the Damascus regime received increased aid from the Arab countries following the signing of the Camp David agreement between Egypt and Israel, "which to a great deal dampened Syria's objections."

One of the more crucial questions of whether Washington will promise Syria a return of the Golan Heights now under Israeli occupation if Damascus withdraws its troops in Lebanon, American officials are less certain. "This question has to be worked out as part of an overall peace settlement. To promise Syria the Golan Heights at present is a bit out of our reach and we are not sure that we will be able to deliver," one senior official commented.

If these options fail and Syria closes down all doors to dialogue, either with the U.S. or with the Lebanese Government, American officials warn that the outlook would be gloomy for Lebanon, for Syria, and for the region as a whole.

"Only then would the Reagan administration brandish the stick," explained the senior official: A massive, crippling Israeli attack on Syria that would deal the death blow to any hope of halting further Israeli expansionism in the region.

The consensus in Washington, however, is that such a stage will not be reached. "A few months of intense diplomatic activity are needed to break the present deadlock," the official concluded optimistically.

One of the main obstacles to a more positive dialogue between Washington and Damascus at present, officials point out with regret, is the poor state of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The two superpowers have been in close touch on the Lebanon conflict, but so far these discussions have been limited to exchanging recriminations and warnings rather than working on finding solutions, according to State Department officials.

But one veteran Washington diplomat expressed his belief that the two superpowers fully realize that a deadlock in the Middle East or a major military conflagration will jeopardize the two countries' other world-wide interests, including the Geneva arms talks.

"I don't think they will want to risk what has been achieved so far by allowing the situation to get out of hand between Syria and Israel," the diplomat commented.

"Having made their point in replenishing Syria's arsenal and in affirming Moscow's readiness to back the Syrians to the hilt, the Soviets [words indistinct] will be open to proposals that will guarantee Syria's security," the diplomat opined.

State Department officials emphasize in private conversations that Shultz's expressed optimism is based on what he has heard so far from both the Russians and the Syrians. "Shultz definitely knows what he is talking about, otherwise he will not be sticking his neck out," one official said emphatically.

CSO: 4400/337

AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL EXAMPLE OF 'ADVANCED LEBANESE DIPLOMACY'

GF171240 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 May 83 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Hurdles Will Foil an Arab Advance"]

[Text] If we study the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, we find that it is a manifestation of advanced Lebanese diplomacy. Israel came along with what were considered illogical demands, taking into consideration that this country was occupying most of Lebanon and was capable of reaching any part of it.

Moreover, Israel is used to the life of the occupier which makes it all the more difficult for her to leave, despite promises that she will do so.

This gives us a clear picture of the difficulties presented to Lebanon by the negotiations, when all it had were the unity of its people and its friendship with the United States. Even this is limited and cannot be compared to the Israeli connection with the White House.

History will remember the quality of the negotiations on the Lebanese side and that the agreement reached represented the best for Lebanon of many choices.

Putting hurdles in the way of the agreement will foil an Arab advance gained by Arab negotiators.

Linking acceptance of this agreement by some Arab countries to unannounced objectives is, in fact, harmful to Lebanese sovereignty.

It is also harmful to the Arab cause: It has not been harmed so much in the whole of its history as by the rejections it is suffering now.

Lebanon must understand that what appears on the surface is not representative of that which is hidden, and in fact, more countries support the agreement than oppose it.

Those who oppose it have no better solution.

Naturally, Lebanon will face criticism from foolish Arab politicians, but rationally-minded people in the Arab world are supporting Lebanese diplomacy because it has achieved the best of the alternatives presented in the negotiations.

CSO: 4400/337

ECONOMIST EXAMINES FOREIGN LABOR 'THREAT'

GF191136 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 May 83 p 5

[Text] A warning that the need to import a majority foreign labor force poses a threat to Kuwait society was given by Dr Su'ad al-Sabah, political scientist and economist, reports AL-ANBA'.

She warned of dire social, political and economic consequences by encouraging a large foreign workforce to come to Kuwait. She also blamed the "lack of interest" by the Kuwaiti workforce in assuming responsibilities, now being held by foreigners.

She called for a "sensible, revised population" policy that would minimize the effects of the presence of the foreign workforce. She called for the increasing the population of Kuwait, not by importing manpower, but by following a studied plan that would attract Arab manpower.

Dr Su'ad said that an unrestricted manpower import policy had increased the population of Kuwait to a level where it strained the country's economy and posed social dangers.

She said Kuwaitis were the "biggest minority" in the country, but the minority was gradually falling. According to 1980 census figures, the number of Kuwaitis fell from 47 percent in 1970 to 41.7 percent in 1980. She expected a further fall in the local population to 30 percent by the end of the century.

She said: "If the present trend is allowed to continue, the presence of Kuwaitis will disappear."

Foreign workers constituted 70 percent of the total between 1975 and 1980. Of the total, only 18.3 percent of the jobs were held by Kuwaitis in 1981, compared with 22.7 percent in 1957.

She said the most of the foreign workers "settled" in the country, by marrying or bringing their families. This raised the population of the country, and services had to be expanded, straining the educational and health sectors, she said.

Asian manpower, she said provided 38 percent of the total foreign workforce in Kuwait.

When compared with the Arab manpower, Asians formed the majority. "This," she said, "has wiped out the Arab character from the structure of the society."

The unplanned influx of the foreign workforce led to the concentration of Kuwaitis into one sector--the services sector, she said.

Kuwaitis were less productive than the foreign workers, despite wealth.

She blamed the state's restrictive policies for foreigners for increased crime and other social changes. She said: "Foreign workers feel insecure and less stable, because of the Kuwaiti policies for foreigners."

Insecurity, she claimed, led to psychological changes and affected their productivity.

She said that the emphasis on restricting the entry of dependants or families led to a rise in "new social values" which contradict traditional Kuwaiti values.

As crime rate had grown, political and social disputes had spread among different foreign communities in Kuwait, she said.

Kuwaitis had begun "depending" on foreigners to do their work for them, instead of assuming the jobs themselves.

They do not appreciate the dignity of labor, and accept only highly paid jobs," she said.

Dr al-Sabah said the government should start replanning the manpower policy by weaning Kuwaitis into productive sectors and distributing them evenly in all jobs.

Pay scales should be revised and Kuwaitis in the services sector attracted to other jobs, according to their education and skills.

The state should begin an extensive training campaign and teach them the importance of labor, reducing their dependence on foreigners, she said.

The Asians should be systematically reduced, more Arabs attracted to Kuwait and Kuwaitis urged to diversify their interests. Gulf states should form an employment agency for Arabs seeking employment.

She said that Kuwait should also diversify its source of income and not depend on "oil revenues" only.

"We must seriously consider investing in sectors other than oil and improve the structure of our industries," she said.

She claimed that foreign investments were an "unstable" form of income.

Oil revenue had fallen and income from foreign investments had also gone down, but the budget in the country was constantly growing, she said. The state,

she said, spent KD 3.6 billion last year, and its expenses would continue to grow, unless controlled systematically.

The economy was suffering from inflation, an influx of foreign labor, and the presence of unproductive Kuwaiti manpower. The structure has been complicated by the recession and the collapse of the al-Manakh market, she said.

To ease pressure on the national economy, she called for taxation on the high income group.

She said Kuwait's hold on foreign investments depended on the oil power it wielded. But oil reserves were dwindling, "and our position on the world market will weaken with it," she said.

She added: "Now is the time to invest in Kuwait, to build Kuwait's economy and attain self-sufficiency--in resources and manpower."

CSO: 4400/337

## CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES RELEASED

LD241454 Kuwait KUNA in English 1331 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 24 May (KUNA)--Kuwait's crude oil production decreased to 765,000 barrels a day in the second quarter of 1982, a drop of 24.3 percent below the corresponding quarter in the previous year, according to a statistical report by the Central Bank released this week.

This decrease was mainly due to the persistent weakness in world demand for OPEC oil in general, and Kuwait's oil in particular, and Kuwait's compliance with the levels of OPEC's official prices as compared to the low levels of prices in a number of oil producing countries within and outside the organization, the report added.

Among the main oil developments in the second quarter of 1982 was the increased rate of exports of Kuwait refined products (including L.P.G.) by 48.4 percent over the first quarter of the same year.

This rise was associated with an increase in the contribution to total Kuwait oil exports is attributed to the intensified attention given to oil-industrialization and to the decrease in crude oil exports following the decelerated number of contracts for the purchase of Kuwaiti crude oil.

As a result of decrease in crude oil production, the production and utilization of natural gas in the second quarter of 1982 fell by 25.8 percent and 23.6 percent respectively, compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

The prices of Kuwait crude oil in the second quarter of 1982 remained at their level in January of the year (U.S. dollar 32.3/barrel) but the average prices in the second quarter of 1982 were 9 percent lower than the average prices in the corresponding quarter in the previous year, the report said.

CSO: 4400/337



BUSINESSMEN CRITICIZE IMMIGRATION POLICY

GF181152 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 May 83 p 4

[Text] Kuwait's immigration policy was criticised by a number of construction and business firms, whose officials claimed that the policy will harm the "productive sector" in the country and man hurt major construction projects, according to a survey conducted by AL-QABAS.

The report said that a large number of senior officials from private sector construction firms and business houses, criticised the labor recruitment policy and visa and residence rules.

The officials declined to be indentified.

One executive was quoted as saying that the visa procedure takes between 3 to 5 months to complete. On finally getting visas, laborers then have to get endorsements from Kuwaiti Embassies overseas, which takes between 20 days and 3 months.

He said: "In Egypt, for instance, endorsement takes about 3 months."

In countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Kuwait, or there is no embassy there, good conduct certificates and medical reports have to be attested by the Foreign Ministry of that state. This, claimed one official, takes a long time, adding to the delay.

The delay in getting permits to Kuwait often results in workers seeking employment in other Gulf states instead.

Even if a firm manages to get work permits for its employees, they face problems: identity cards are not issued unless the residence permit is stamped on the passport and employees get into trouble with police when they are stopped without an ID card.

Both getting and renewing residence permits, were problems they said. A company is allowed to submit only five passports a week for renewal, thus causing delays.

Sometimes, the Ministry of Soviet Affairs and Labor, refuses to cancel work permits of people who have left their employment, because their physical

presence is required for cancellations. As the company has been given one work permit, additional permits are refused, they said.

The people interviewed by AL-QABAS also criticised "the slack, rude behavior" of the employees of the ministry. They claimed that company representatives were treated rudely and were not allowed to meet the heads of the departments to present their case.

The report said that these difficulties "will harm the construction and other sectors" and hurt the economy as a whole.

CSO: 4400/337

## BRIEFS

PRESS DIFFERENCES IN KUWAIT--It seems that the democratic atmosphere enjoyed by the Kuwaiti press has tempted some upholders of certain ideas to shift their conflicts to the Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines rather than keeping them confined to private quarters. One who follows the Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines finds that the "colors" of the five dailies have become distinct. For example, AL-SIYASAH and AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM represent the right, while AL-WATAN, AL-ANBA' and AL-QABAS are daily newspapers that represent the left. Similarly, we find that many of the Kuwaiti weekly magazines go under the same classification. The most well-known magazines are AL-TALI'AH, which represents the "extreme" left, and AL-MUJTAMA', which represents the "extreme" right. By following both magazines we find that they exchange accusations openly and publicly. AL-TALI'AH, which is an extreme leftist publication, accuses AL-MUJTAMA', which is an extreme rightist publication, of being the organ of the Muslim Brotherhood, while AL-MUJTAMA' accuses AL-TALI'AH of being one of the trumpets of infidel communism and one of its dens in the Gulf region. ['Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Salih al-Ghamrawi dispatch from Kuwait] [Excerpt] [GF141643 Manama AL-ADWA' in Arabic 14 May 83 p 11]

IRAQIS ARRESTED FOR ARMS SMUGGLING--Three Iraqis whose names are 'Abd al-Razzaq Jabir Hunaydi, 'Abd al-Kazim 'Abbas Nasir, and Farhar Farhan Sarhan, were arrested on the charge of smuggling and possessing arms. The general prosecution suspended these three persons pending an investigation. Informed sources told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that a wide-scale investigation has begun on the accused in order to find out the motives for smuggling the arms. [Text] [GF111344 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 10 May 83 p 1]

COMPULSORY SOCIAL WORK FOR WOMEN--Kuwait Cabinet's Social and Criminal Research Department is conducting a study on a draft law aimed at making it compulsory for Kuwait women to undergo a term of service in social work. The study comes after the Cabinet agreed in principle to a recommendation by the Education, Social and Health Committee for compulsory social work for Kuwait women to help out the welfare authorities. The draft law will exempt women who are not medically fit in the same way as men are exempted from the army. Those also exempted are pregnant women, students in high schools and colleges, women in jail and those who have difficult family circumstances, as well as those who live with their families overseas. The exemption for these latter women will be temporary. [Excerpts] [GF181211 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 May 83 p 1]

CSO: 4400/337

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS HEIR APPARENT

GF211510 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 May 83

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 May (QNA)--His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, had called for a unified Arab stance toward the fateful Arab issues. He has affirmed Qatar's support for any Arab effort for the restoration of the legitimate Arab rights, foremost of which is the Palestinian rights. His highness has stressed the necessity of brushing aside all the minor differences and the necessity of reestablishing Arab solidarity. He warned against the danger of the imperialist and Zionist ambitions and plans against the Arab nation.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM--published today, His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani also expressed his hope that the fighting between Iraq and Iran will come to an end. He asserted that it is only the enemies who will benefit from the continuation of this war.

The following is the text of the interview held with his highness by the newspaper on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait the day after tomorrow, Monday, at the invitation of his brother His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister:

[Question] What about the joint mediation of Kuwait and the UAE to end the Iranian-Iraqi war within the framework of the announced peace plan?

His highness, the heir apparent: We have blessed and warmly supported all the peace initiatives. We are undoubtedly eager to stop this bloodshed which has continued for a long time. These good efforts to stop the fighting are favorable to the prosperity and stability of the region and will bring about an end to the state of anxiety and disputes which expose the region to further threats and ambitions as well as preventing any opening to foreign forces which are pursuing their own interests. We ask God that the existing mediation will be successful and that the concerned parties will respond to it. It is only the enemies who benefit from this war.

[Question] Will the Kuwaiti-Qatari negotiations deal with Gulf security issues and assess GCC views? Will these negotiations deal with the relations between the GCC states and the comprehensive development of the GCC institutions?

His highness, the heir apparent: I have already said that it is natural to discuss everything concerning our local Arab Gulf issues in light of the current situation and the Arab-Israeli struggle. Of course, our position in support of the Palestinian rights against the Israeli occupation and our position regarding the necessity of restoring these rights from the usurping enemy are clearly known. We have continued to call for and supported the adoption of any unified and solid stance toward these fateful and just issues. The positions and initiatives of his highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah, in all the Arab meetings and in all the national efforts are known and concrete. We hope that through sincere efforts and national feeling, the historical responsible Arab can succeed in achieving the objectives of our Arab nation and in restoring the usurped Arab rights through more solidarity and fusion and through the eradication of the minor differences which only serve the enemies who are plotting against this nation. There are vicious imperialist and Zionist ambitions and plans.

CSO: 4400/350

SAUDI CONTRACTING SECTOR PROPOSES NEW REGULATIONS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 320, 9 Apr 83 pp 47-48

[Article" "The Saudi Contracting Sector Takes Its Share of the Large-Scale Development Projects"]

[Text] After the study submitted by the Saudi contracting companies to the Saudi Businessmen's Conference showed what difficulties and hardships they were having, the Saudi government is now requiring that Saudi firms be partners in development projects which are being awarded to foreign companies.

Saudi Arabia is now demanding that foreign contracting firms which are awarded contracts for Saudi development projects have Saudi contracting firms participate as sub contractors and that their share in each project be a minimum of 20 percent. The Saudi government is also demanding that foreign contractors purchase from Saudi merchants the materials that constitute their production requirements.

This step was taken as a result of two important events. The first was the curtailment by the Saudi government of some of the large Saudi development projects because of the 60 percent decrease in Saudi oil revenues [anticipated] in 1983. The second event was the Saudi Businessmen's Conference, at which the participants expressed their alarm concerning the decrease in revenues and the possibility that this would lead to a halt in business activity. The private sector had come up with some demands, the most important of which were the above-mentioned steps which have been instituted. This action, which has been agreed to by the foreign contracting firms, will provide tremendous business opportunities for the Saudi contracting sector, which includes about 316 companies. The Saudi contracting firms had submitted a study to the Saudi Businessmen's Conference in which they had explained the situation in the contracting sector and the difficulties which this sector was facing. The most important of these difficulties was foreign competition. The following is an excerpt showing the most important points that were mentioned in the study:

"During this period of comprehensive change and development which is being experienced by Saudi Arabia, the Saudi contracting sector is playing an

affective role in our economic and social development and achieving accomplishments which are exceeding all of our expectations.

Anyone who is keeping track of the contracting sector will notice one important fact, which is that private Saudi capital has had no hesitations about being channeled toward investment in this vital sector--a sector which Saudi Arabia depends upon to have its public utilities and facilities constructed and its national infrastructure built.

The number of contracting firms that have been classified is 316, and these companies are distributed as follows in accordance with their fields of activity:

There are 184 companies operating in the field of building construction, 91 companies in the field of road construction, 21 companies in the field of construction of electrical works and installations, 6 companies in the field of construction of water supply and sewage systems, 2 companies in the field of dam construction, and 12 companies are operating in the field of maintenance work.

An assessment of the production capacity of these Saudi contracting firms, according to their classification in the Contractors Register, gives us the following information:

Category I - 24 companies, each of which is capable of performing projects valued at over 200 million riyals per year. All of these companies together are capable of performing projects valued at over 4.8 billion riyals [per year].

Category II - 64 companies, each of which is capable of performing projects valued at up to 200 million riyals per year. All of these companies together are capable of performing projects valued at 12.8 billion riyals per year.

Category III - 98 companies, each of which is capable of performing projects valued at up to 50 million riyals per year. All of these companies together are capable of performing projects valued at about 4.9 billion riyals per year.

Category IV-- 130 companies, each of which is capable of performing projects valued at up to 5 million riyals per year. This means that all of these companies together are capable of performing projects valued at about 650 million riyals per year.

From this assessment we can draw one basic conclusion, and it is that the Saudi contracting companies which have been categorized in the Contractors Classification Register are capable of performing projects valued at over 23 billion riyals [per year].

In spite of this fact, this sector is confronted with a number of problems which affect its productive capacity. The most important of these problems are the following:



1. Stiff competition from the foreign contracting companies which have long experience in the field of contracting and construction. In addition to this, these foreign companies are supported and backed by their governments. These are two things which limit the ability of the Saudi contracting companies to compete with them, and this has helped the foreign companies to win a huge share of the contracts for projects in Saudi Arabia. In fact, the value of the contracts awarded to foreign companies between 1977 and 1981 was about 161 billion riyals. Korean contracting companies got 20 percent of the total of these contracts (32.2 billion riyals,) and German companies got about 12 percent of the total (19.3 billion riyals.)

2. Not being able to obtain the necessary financing from banks. Commercial banks adhere to the application of principles which limit their ability to expand their support of the contracting sector and provide the necessary credit to enable this sector to carry out its job.

3. The advance loans which can be obtained by contracting firms when implementing contracts with government organizations have gone down from 20 percent to 10 percent [of the total value of the projects], and this has saddled these firms with added financing difficulties.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh has done some research concerning the percentage of the advance loans provided to contracting companies in the various Gulf Nations when they implement contracts with government organizations, and the results were as follows:

The advance loans in Kuwait range between a minimum of 10 percent and a maximum of 20 percent of the total value of a project.

The advance loans in the UAE range between 15 and 25 percent.

In Bahrain, the Ministry of Public Works, Electricity, and Water provides advance loans which are 10 percent of the total value of such contracts.

The contracting sector is considered to be the economic sector which most needs foreign workers because of the nature of the work which this sector engages in and the specialization involved which it requires. However, in spite of the fact that the procedures for bringing in foreign workers have recently been made easier, there are still some obstacles which one must deal with when hiring foreign workers. The most important of these are the following:

The Foreign Workers Hiring Office does not give its approval for companies requiring a large number of foreign workers which they need, and thus this factor alone tends to greatly reduce the number of foreign workers to be engaged in by the foreign workers, and this is a major obstacle.

Another major obstacle is the fact that the hiring of foreign workers is subject to a number of restrictions which are not always followed in all of the Gulf States.

As for solutions to these problems, we propose the following:

1. A preferential policy should be followed which serves to grant priority to Saudi firms over others when government contracts are awarded.
2. We propose that large-scale contracts be broken down in accordance with the various operations and phases that they involve, and we propose that each phase of a project be bid on separately, in order to make it easy for Saudi firms to submit their offers.
3. The other obstacles involved in the procedure of bringing in foreign workers should be eliminated.
4. The Saudi banking establishment should be urged to provide Saudi contracting firms with the necessary credit.
5. The Industrial Development Fund should, in cases involving Saudi contractors who are awarded contracts to perform projects for government organizations, grant loans to these contractors equally up to 10 percent of the total value of the projects."

9468

CSO: 4404/332

## DETERMINATION TO FOIL MIDEAST AGREEMENT REITERATED

JN211102 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0905 GMT 21 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 21 May (SANA)--In its editorial today, TISHRIN says that Syria vehemently rejected the Camp David accords not because it was seeking Syrian regional interests or gains in Egypt or in the Sinai--as agents now claim about Lebanon--but because it was taking the Arab nation's interests and future into account.

The paper adds: Had Syria been seeking regional gains in Lebanon, it would have done so during the 7 years when it was capable of achieving whatever it wanted. The Syrian role in Lebanon, however, has been an honorable, honest, pan-Arab role through which Syria seeks to highlight the humanitarian meanings of Arab nationalism and which Syria seeks to entrench in our Arab nation. The paper stresses that this role still governs the decisions of President al-Asad on Lebanon and that our pan-Arab principles continue to dictate our steps in Lebanon.

The paper says: As we have confronted the Camp David accords, we are now confronting Camp Khaldah and Netanya [as received] to contain and foil it, check the spread of its poisonous secretions in the Arab body, and sever the link between the two treasonous political trends, between Khaldah and Sinai and between Khaldah and Camp David.

The paper adds: It is surprising that some Arabs hesitate to adopt the same immediate, instinctive pan-Arab stand toward the writ of submission between Israel and Lebanon which they adopted toward the Camp David Accords, especially since this writ of submission is more dangerous than Camp David. A careful perusal of both agreements reveal that this agreement contains dangers far more ominous than those of Camp David.

The paper says: Even though we have until now allowed political action to mobilize the nation against the agreement so that it rejects it and is warned of the consequences of its implementation as it is directed against the Arabs and Syria, the Arabs still must immediately carry out measures which deter the Phalanges, who are ruling Lebanon, from implementing it.

The paper adds: Syria reserves the right to use all means, adopt any decisions or treaties, and carry out all that it deems necessary to foil this agreement and defeat the ruling sectarian formula behind this agreement and those who support it.

Concluding, the paper says that the agreement will not be peddled and that, with every escalation of U.S. threats and pressures against Syria, Syria will likewise increase its determination to reject the agreement and work to thwart it, because Syria is concerned for its strategic security and the Arabs' strategic depth. Those who prepared it and those who signed it will realize that Syria has the necessary means to foil the agreement.

CSO: 4400/339

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION DEPARTS--The delegation of the Hungarian National Council of Agricultural Cooperatives left Aden yesterday afternoon following a visit that lasted several days, during which a joint agriculture cooperation protocol was signed. [Summary] [GF290811 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 83 GF]

ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY--Brother Ahmad as-Silani, member of the Presidium, and chairman of the external relations committee and Yemeni People's Assembly, called on Italy and the European countries to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people, impose economic sanctions on Israel, and be independent from the United States in their decisions. The call was made during his meeting this morning with the delegation of the National Society of Arab-Italian Friendship lead by (Emotelli), chairman of the society. An exchange of views took place on the necessity of exchanging visits and delegations between the two countries to strengthen bilateral relations. He affirmed the role of the Arab-European societies in strengthening relations with the Arab peoples. A number of Arab issues, foremost of which the Palestinian cause and the stance of the PDRY which regards it as the central cause of the Arab nation, were discussed. The Italian delegation expressed satisfaction on its visit to the PDRY. [Text] [GF301942 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 May 83 GF]

CSO: 2406/19

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

MOSCOW OFFICIAL--Ahmad Luqman, minister of state, secretary general of the Supreme Council for Sports and Youth and director of the executive office for reconstruction, discussed with the visiting Soviet delegation, led by (Karnez Decor), assistant deputy Moscow mayor for foreign affairs, the means for reconstruction and the aid which the Soviet Union can provide in this regard. [Text] [GF301930 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 May 83 GF]

SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION--A Soviet delegation for defending peace led by (Kalinin) left San'a' for home tonight following a 1-week visit to the YAR. During the visit, the delegation held talks with the YAR Peace and Solidarity Council. [Summary] [GF250742 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 May 83 GF]

CSO: 4400/348

## DELHI RADIO FEATURE ON ARKHIPOV VISIT, TIES WITH USSR

BK171530 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 16 May 83

["Spotlight" program: Talk by S. Vishwam of the DECCAN HERALD]

[Text] Indo-Soviet relations have provided an excellent example of how two countries with different political systems can cooperate with each other in many spheres to their mutual benefit. The basis of such relationship lies in the extraordinary interest which the peoples of the two countries have been taking in sustaining a common objective. That objective has been world peace. Because of this, Indo-Soviet cooperation, both in the political and economic spheres, has been wide ranging. It has demonstrated its dynamism and a capacity for growth. The partnership has been on terms of equality and mutual respect. There has been a coincidence of closeness of the positions of the two countries on several global issues. But if the friendship has survived the test of time it is largely because Indo-Soviet relations operate in a framework which allows for frankness and understanding each other's position. This is why there have never been any insuperable problems between the two countries.

An opportunity for an indepth review of Indo-Soviet ties was provided by the visit to India of the first deputy prime minister, Mr I.V. Arkhipov, whose personal links with this country go back over 2 decades. Mr Arkhipov has played a leading role in giving shape to Indo-Soviet economic relations. The visit had a significance of its own, partly because Mr Arkhipov is the first senior Soviet leader to visit India after President Brezhnev's death and partly because it took place after India's assumption of the chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement.

The visit proved eventful. The two countries could exchange views not only on the changing global environments but also on putting Indo-Soviet economic relations on a more sound footing. Of late, there has been some concern in both the countries over the growing stresses in the bilateral trade.

The matter figured in Parliament also. The commerce minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, told the Rajya Sabha that there was a trade imbalance, but it was a temporary phase of sluggishness. The basic problem has been reduction of imports from the Soviet Union to match the Indian exports. India had an adverse trade balance in 1978, 1979 and 1980, but since then, it had been the other way round. Indian exports to the Soviet Union have declined because there has been less offtake of Indian cashew, oil cake, pepper, coffee and textiles.



Some corrective measures were taken during the visit of a high-level delegation last month led by the deputy foreign minister, Mr I.T. Grishin. A protocol was signed providing for the supply of an additional quantity of 250,000 tons of crude oil as well as certain items of machinery by the Soviet Union in 1983. This is expected to reduce the Soviet Union's adverse trade balance with India to 1.35 billion rupees from 6.88 billion in 1982. However, trade is only one element, though undoubtedly an important element in the ongoing economic co-operation. The current imbalance must be seen as a temporary phase which would soon pass when further supplies of cement, fertilizers, crude and petroleum products begin from the Soviet Union.

During Mr Arkhipov's visit, as part of the wide-ranging economic cooperation, an agreement was signed to mark the extension of a second credit of 1.4 billion rupees for the second stage of the Visakhapatnam steel plant. This is in addition to the 2.5 billion rupees already given for the first stage. The credits are repayable over 20 years at a nominal interest. The latest credit, as the earlier one, is to be used for payment of the supply of machinery and services for the second blast furnace (word indistinct). The Visakhapatnam will have a capacity of 3.4 million tons of liquid steel per annum. The major work on the project began in January 1982. The plant is scheduled for completion by early 1988.

Apart from the steel plant and the earlier agreement on Soviet participation in the aluminum project on the east coast, there have been further offers of assistance. These relate to the proposal of Vindhyachal superthermal power stations, development of some coal mines, offshore drilling for oil in different basins and the development of nonferrous metal industry.

Additionally, there has been significant cooperation in the defense sphere. The defense minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, is scheduled to go to Moscow in the next few days for reviewing defense cooperation.

[BK171600] Mr Arkhipov's visit coincided with the formal inauguration of the Mathura refinery which is a Soviet-aided project slated to process 6 million tons of crude. The refinery is on full stream now. While the refinery is an important milestone in India's progress toward self-sufficiency in crude refining, it also symbolizes the Soviet Union's willingness to share with India modern technology in this sphere. Mr Arkhipov, who participated in the inaugural function, commented that the designing, construction and commissioning of the plant have demonstrated the high skill and experience which Indian specialists have gained during the development of the oil-refining industry.

As the external affairs minister, Narasimha Rao, had noted on an earlier occasion while welcoming Mr Arkhipov, and I quote; in our struggle for economic progress and self-reliance, the Soviet Union has made an important contribution, unquote. It is our sincere desire, the minister added, that our economic cooperation which has been proved and indeed enriched by time, continues to expand. The global situation is getting increasingly complicated. The polarization between the haves and the have-nots has sharpened immensely in the recent past. Mr Narasimha Rao rightly pointed out that the task of national development in India was being undertaken against the global background of

threats to peace and the growth of global tension as well as the ever-escalating nuclear arms race.

India had persevered in its efforts to promote peace and cooperation, above all, in its own region. The chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement had placed additional responsibilities on India. Some aspects of these responsibilities were no doubt conveyed to Mr Arkhipov by the prime minister and Mr Narasimha Rao. Consistent with its own policies, the Soviet Union ought to have found in the decisions of the New Delhi Nonaligned Summit an echo of some of its own positions regarding the larger issues of world peace, disarmament and development. The concerns of the nonaligned, as reflected in the political and economic declaration and special New Delhi message, have already been conveyed to Mr Yuriy Andropov. During Mr Arkhipov's visit and his conversations with the prime minister and other leaders, an opportunity naturally arose for recalling some of these major concerns.

The New Delhi summit had called upon all countries of the world to work for peaceful coexistence, independence, disarmament and development. The summit had also called for a cooperative effort at restructuring the international economic order through global negotiations and emphasizing need for a program of immediate measures to stimulate economic growth as well as greater cooperation among the developing countries. Another notable idea was the convening of an international conference on money and finance for development with universal participation in which reform and restructuring of the present financial and monetary institutions could be meaningfully discussed.

In this regard, the Nonaligned Movement, through Mrs Gandhi, has appealed to all members to attend the forthcoming General Assembly session at the level of heads of state or governments. India would very much like the Soviet Union to respond positively to this suggestion. If General Secretary Yuriy Andropov is able to attend the session personally, a matching gesture could be expected from President Reagan also. The idea behind Mrs Gandhi's suggestion is that the presence of all the heads of state of UN members would lead to the creation of a positive atmosphere in which measures for lessening world tensions could be meaningfully discussed. Mr Arkhipov can be expected to convey to Mr Andropov the strong hopes which India entertains in regard to the attendance of the head of state in the UN session.

In July, India also set high store by the potential of an international conference attended by representatives of the developing and developed world and the 100 or more nations in examining the present-day shortcomings of the international institutions. In the past, the Soviet Union and other leading industrial countries have taken the position that the task of remedying the plight of the developing world is a primary responsibility of the industrialized nations. The argument has been that since the majority of the Third World nations have been exploited by colonial domination, it is up to the erstwhile colonial powers to come to terms with the Third World. This was the attitude which influenced the Soviet Union to stay away from the Cancun conference in 1981. But, India has been hoping that the Soviet Union and its allies are beginning to bear a changed outlook on this issue.

The dimensions of the current global economic crisis are such that no country in the world can afford to seek solution in isolation. The imperative of interdependence of differing systems and regions has become all too (?patent). Unfortunately for the Third World, the industrialized West tends to treat major global issues in purely East-West terms.

[BK171606] The socialist countries, on the other hand, preferred the promotion of bilateral cooperation to multilateral arrangements. But, because various institutions capable of assisting the developing world are controlled by the industrialized West, the Third World is willy-nilly forced to deal with them. It was in order to introduce a corrective element to the state of affairs that India suggested an international conference on money and finance with universal participation.

The Soviet Union has generally been sympathetic to the Nonaligned Movement. Mr Arkhipov also assured the Indian leaders that Moscow's evaluation of the decisions of the New Delhi summit was both positive and sympathetic. But, it may be too early to conclude from such an observation that the Soviet Union's response to the suggestion for Mr Andropov's personal attendance at the UN session or for participation in an international conference on money and finance would be positive.

However, Mr Arkhipov can be said to possess after his visit a clearer perception of Indian thinking on world issues and of the rationale behind the non-aligned advocacy of certain fundamentally important positions. Moscow's own reaction can be expected to crystallize in the coming months and if, in the process, its decisions are positive, New Delhi will have good grounds for satisfaction.

CSO: 4600/1142

## COMMENTATOR TELLS DOUBTS ON AKALI VOLUNTEER FORCE

BK281209 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 23 Apr 83 p 7

[Article by K.G. Dutt: "Dangerous Turn in Punjab Agitation"]

[Text] Chandigarh--The plan of the Akali Dal High Command to recruit about 100,000 volunteers who will act on the call of "do or die" for the cause of Sikh Panth is full of dangerous portents. Whatever explanations the Dal may give, an ominous feeling creeps into the minds of peace-loving citizens regarding the intentions of raising such a corps of volunteers. The administration of oath to about 32,000 volunteers at the Akal Takhat--the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs--has further strengthened the doubts of the peace-loving residents of Punjab. After the declaration by the Dal Chief Sant Harchand Singh Longowal that these volunteers would not remain silent spectators if they were disturbed leaves no one in doubt about the intentions of the Akali Dal.

The already tense atmosphere in Punjab has become more vitiated after the raising of the first corps of volunteers. The simple question is why the Akalis feel the need for such a force if they truly believe in nonviolence or a negotiated settlement of the problems faced by Punjab? Why again have they implemented their plans even after the Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi had conceded their religious demands and appointed the Sarkaria Commission to go into the Centre-State relations? These announcements, though unilateral, go more than half way to meet the demands of the Akalis. Furthermore, the claim of the volunteers is belied by the announcement made by extremist leaders who are hiding in the sacred precincts of the Golden Temple.

The self-styled general secretary of the National Council of Kahlistan, Mr Balbir Singh Sandhu has categorically said that the Guru Nanak Niwas was the "Cantonment of the Sikhs." He had further said that he has every right to preach the concept of Khalistan from the Golden Temple.

It is common knowledge that there is a dual authority in the Akali Dal these days. A powerful section of its leadership listens only to the voice of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale whose extremist propensities need no elaboration. It is also a little known fact that a majority of the first batch of volunteers who have been administered the oath are also the young followers of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. The Sant has never made any bones about his plans to resort to armed action if need be to achieve the demands contained in the

Amritsar Sahib, resolution. If things are seen in their proper perspective it seems obvious why the Dal felt the need for raising such a force. Besides, if intentions of the Dal are to preserve communal harmony and peaceful atmosphere in the state why is the Dal leadership hesitant to condemn unequivocally the unprovoked killings and the killings of innocent people in Punjab?

The Dal strategy to blame the government for all such incidents does not clear the mist that in the minds of the minorities in Punjab when elements who indulge in wanton killings are provided shelter in the Guru Nanak Niwas. Does the Dal leadership feel that a stick and carrot policy would be in the interests of the people of the state at large? How come the extremists are all running the show while hiding in the Guru Nanak Niwas? If the Dal's confidence is high let it make an offer to the Union Government to send a team comprising all communities to visit the Guru Nanak Niwas and see things for themselves. Such an offer would go a long way in establishing the credentials of the statements made by the Akali Dal and also prove its charge that the government was responsible for the killings in Punjab.

The thread of communal harmony in Punjab is wafer thin. A strong pull can break this thread and engulf the state into communal disturbances. If the government fails to rise to the occasion the minorities would lose faith in it. On the other hand, the Akalis have also started a dangerous trend. For one, instead of reason it has started the cult of violence; second, every party now onwards will think of raising a force of volunteers who will also be guided by the slogan of 'do or die.' If the situation is allowed to drift Punjab would be in for dangerous days ahead.

Ref: 200/1111

## KHOMEYNI REFUSES TO HAVE 'INFANT SOLDIERS' BACK

Paris LIBERATION in French 26 Apr 83 pp 20-22

[Text] The child was dragged by the arm away from the group of his comrades. He found himself alone, surrounded by Iraqi officers and soldiers. He stood with his head down, his chin almost touching his chest. Dressed in a military jacket and fatigue trousers not quite long enough, he closed his eyes and shook his shaven head. An Iraqi asked if he was all right, if the conditions under which he was being held were good, and if he knew why he had gone to war. However, the child would say nothing. He wanted to return to the others. After an awkward moment, the officer indicated with a gesture that he could return to the others. He did so, eyes closed and teeth clenched. Huddled against his companions, Hasan Hazeri, a 12-year-old Iranian prisoner, began to cry softly.

We were more than 500 kilometers from the front line of the war, to the west of Baghdad, near the small town of Ramadi. With barbed-wire fences, watch-towers made of planks, two-story buildings and windows with bars but no glass, the Warra camp holds a thousand of the Iranian prisoners out of the some 50,000 held in Iraq since 1980. There is no mystery about the camp, any more than there is about the dozens of others throughout the country. The International Red Cross visits the prisoners every month and handles the exchange of mail. Every week, the prisoners have a medical examination and the red-haired dentist was entirely relaxed in his little office, showing off the facilities and pointing out the radio and the local anesthetics.

It is difficult to visit prisoners of war. The truth cannot be only what has been seen. One would need to intercept a look of anguish, to open forbidden doors, to speak to the men concealed or in isolation. It takes just a moment to describe the time between the entrance and the exit from the camp, to the other side of the barbed wire.

This time, however, it seems that Iraq has adopted a resolutely legal policy, in an attempt to rise above Western opinion. It is adhering to nothing less than the principle set forth by the Geneva convention, but nothing more either.

The visitor can go where he likes and talk freely, if they are willing, with those being held. Painted on the walls in the interior courtyard are two simple letters for which other prisoners throughout the world would die: P.W. standing for prisoner of war.

Mealtime. In the middle of the courtyard, an Iraqi, equipped with an enormous ladle, waited the long lines of prisoners. There was a sort of red soup thick with broad beans and meat. Ostentatiously, a higher-ranking Iraqi officer plunged his fingers into a bowl of rice, tasted, and imitated the expression of a gourmet enjoying the savor of a delicate fish. A crate of apples and a box of meat, from which the flies were waved away before the photograph was taken, were pointed out to me. The prisoners filed in, their mess tins in hand. All were shaven. On each pocket was a round plastic badge bearing a matriculation number. They wore brown vests and pants and sandals. On reaching the soldier, they practically prostrated themselves while awaiting their food. The man serving them was an enemy and they understood what this gesture cost them. To die at the hand of the enemy opens the gates to the after-life for the Shi'ites, but allowing the enemy to feed you is a humiliation even worse than retreating from the battlefield. Barracks by barracks, the Iranians reached the middle of the courtyard, received their rations and then returned to their quarters. They were between 15 and 30 years of age. Opposite them, against the wall, stood the oldest prisoner in the camp. The Iraqi officers greeted him with exaggerated cordiality. They shook his hand, patted him on the back and smiled while chatting of mundane things. The man claims to be a "civilian" and says that he was forced to join Khomeyni's armies. Almost bald beneath the scarf knotted into a turban, white-bearded and wearing the prisoner's uniform, he views the camp as a familiar place. No one pays any attention to him any more. He has been awaiting repatriation since 1980.

Some 30 prisoners arrived in the courtyard. These were children. They were not a part of the regular Iranian army, or even of the Pasdarans, the guardians of the revolution, but they fought under their orders. In Iran they are known as the Mostasafin, the poorest among the poor, and as soon as they reached the front, they joined the armies of the Besij, the "Foundation of the Disinherited." With the old and the handicapped, the young Iranians are sent to attack the enemy outposts, armed with their own individual rifles and sometimes their own individual faith. Generally, the terrain mined by the Iranians is cleared over an area of some 50 meters by the most sophisticated means, and then the Besij personnel are sent in. Armed with knives, they penetrate the mine fields and try to dismantle the artifacts under enemy fire. Others simply advance toward the enemy lines praying to be spared. The majority advance over the half-unearthed mines. They come in assault waves, not even doubled over to avoid the machine gun fire. Before leaving the trenches, each man is given a key, which he hangs around his neck, and a little passport bearing his name. These two objects are more important to the men than their guns. They make it possible to go straight to heaven if death strikes. The passport serves as identification and the key opens the door to the afterlife.

With them go the old men, who are repeatedly told that they are only so many mouths to be fed, and the handicapped, who can thus expiate the faults which caused their handicaps. The Foundation of the Disinherited leads most of the assaults, and each time it has come up against the implacable regular Iraqi army. The Iraqi officers swear that sticks have been found near some of the bodies, while others had ropes attached to their legs. This is done so they will not flee from the enemy.



It has often been claimed that Iranian children have been kidnapped as they emerged from their schools and forced to go to the front. If this is satisfying to believe, it is in large part false. Some say they were kidnapped but many of the prisoners were volunteers. Volunteers to combat the Arab enemy--they are Persians--and to win back, by dint of arms, the holy Shi'ite Islamic towns of Karbala and Najaf. Moreover, according to the Pasdarans who sent them into battle, these towns are on the frontier between Iran and Iraq. Just a few kilometers, a mere formality. A number of children arrived in the camp quite astonished to learn that Baghdad was so far from their own lines and their holy cities farther still toward the West. Volunteers, they were trained for a few weeks and then sent to the front line. If they are killed, Iran allocates to their families a minimal sum of money or some vouchers for consumer goods. The parent of a soldier who has been killed has some advantages in finding work and other doors are also opened in his daily life. In Iraq, the widow of a soldier killed in the war can obtain a free vehicle, and the Iraqi government newspaper has just announced that they can be sold at a fair price. The rear guard is holding up.

In the bodies of the majority of the Besij soldiers killed, the Iraqis have found a red or green scarf bearing the slogan "God Is Great" knotted around the arm or worn as a band around the forehead. On visiting the prison hospital, we saw three wards painted green, with barred windows. The beds occupy every inch from wall to wall, and every two beds accommodate three prisoners. There is a blue foam-rubber mattress, a blanket and a pillow for every two patients. They wear long blue or ochre striped pajamas. Their faces are grave, their heads shaved, their expression terrible. The majority have been wounded in the leg, by antipersonnel mines, barbed wire or tumbling down the dunes. In the courtyard, numerous children are moving about with the aid of crutches. There are crutches at the feet of numerous beds. At one point, a boy used his immobilized arm to extend his index and middle fingers to form the victory "V." An Iraqi officer noticed and shrugged his shoulders. The children have an entirely lost and bewildered air, still suffering from the shock of the war, their capture, and finding themselves face to face with these much-described enemies. Some have been promenaded throughout Baghdad. Others, although this is less common, were taken to Luna Park in the capital city to play for a bit prior to detention. Publicity, certainly, but also Iraqi confusion with regard to these enemies of a new sort. "I regard them as my children," a portly officer said. An exaggeration? Probably, but it is certainly difficult for them to feel hatred for the boys who were once their equals. This lot arrived during the last Iranian offensive, between 1 and 1 April. When the Iraqi tanks advanced, they were caught in the net. At the back of the barracks, prostrate on their heels, they still make a point of concealing their faces or making menacing gestures. In the past, a number of those seized had said that they would go willingly back into battle again if they could. This time, the 60 new prisoners were not all Besij soldiers. In view of the courageous behavior of the children, they were retained by the Foundation of the Disinherited. Iraq has treated the children and the old men with regular army soldiers. The latter are a completely different sort of prisoner. There is talk of a prisoner-to-soldier basis, and a sort of current passes between the two groups, whether Iranian, Iraqi or Iranian. A pilot shot down in 1981 saw Iraqis enter

the barracks. There were handshakes and cigarettes were offered around. This was more than a pure propaganda gesture. The pilot seemed in no way surprised by the behavior of his captors. A few empty beds away from him, the young Besij soldiers looked daggers at him, apparently hating their officers more than their enemies.

Every month, as required by law, the prisoners receive a certain number of purchase vouchers, in the form of yellow and pink bills. A rank-and-file soldier receives 250 francs at the beginning of every month, while an Iranian officer receives 500. Thus they can purchase cigarettes, beverages or chocolate at the prison canteen between the soccer and volleyball matches.

Ali Mansuri, matriculation No 2873, was introduced as an Iranian captain--captain of the soccer team. On one of his white shoes, he had written the name of his team--Star--with a ballpoint pen.

We came upon a funny little man during our tour. He was a prisoner too, and an Iranian like the rest, but entirely at ease. His was a totally crazy story. Mr Bijdeli is a surgeon and he was living in the United States when the hostilities broke out in 1980. His brother-in-law was killed at the front, and he felt it his duty to go back and get his sister. He took the plane, traveled to Abadan, searched, searched some more, and found himself at the front, an unarmed civilian. He finally found his sister, who had set out to find her husband's body, and who was seized in the same wave of Iraqi advances. Taken prisoner in 1980, he has been held in Iraq since then, and now helps with minor surgical tasks.

When I passed through the archways near the barred windows, the prisoners stuck out their tongues at me and shouted "monkey." Their jailers, switches in hand, were busy elsewhere. Iran has no use for these children any more and regards them as dead. In fact, they are a burden to everyone. Iraq has tried everything to return them to their country since the hostilities began, and since the very first day when one of Saddam Hussein's soldiers found himself face-to-face with an urchin raising his hands in surrender. The Iraqis have asked the Red Cross, humanitarian organizations and various international bodies to intervene. Iraq has asked Turkey and France to organize safe passage to Iran, but both countries have refused, knowing that Tehran would not accept the return of these children. Both they and the aged remain in prison, not really understanding why Iran has rejected them in this way.

The majority gathered on the athletic field on the evening of their first day of captivity and, turning toward Mecca, began to say their prayers. Beside them, their blasphemous and demoniac Arab enemies from the other parts of the prison did the same. Then, like the children they are, many of them began to cry.

#### Premature Martyrdom

It proved necessary to wait for the beginning of 1983 to be entirely certain that children were being used and sent to the front lines by the Iranian army.

in its war against Iraq. It is generally estimated that more than 70 percent of them were either killed or wounded during the offensives, the balance having been captured. The families receive a premium of 400 tumans, about 420 francs, when a child goes off to war or a "martyr's" card if he is killed. Of peasant origin, the Iranian children are generally equipped with automatic rifles, but many young combatants go into battle with simple clubs. Some clashes at outposts have even been fought barehanded. The assignment is simple: "To kill four Iraqis for each Iranian killed." In the Iranian schools, photographs of the children killed decorate the walls, and their mothers come to make their little classmates swear vengeance for their children.

If it is difficult to obtain figures, the number of children between 11 and 15 years of age killed by Iraqi bullets is generally estimated at "several thousand." As to the prisoners inhabiting the camps, Khomeyni insinuates that they are really young Iraqis disguised as Iranians for the purpose of deceiving the international public. Even if he accepted the reality, it would not make him happy. In his view, these young traitors have refused to be the martyrs they promised the imam they would become.

5157

CSO: 4619/71

ARREST OF 40 TUDEH MEMBERS IN LORESTAN REPORTED

CF270850 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 May 83 p 9

[By IRNA correspondent]

[Text] Khorramabad--Following the exposure of the nature of the espionage of the traitorous and defunct Tudeh Party because of the efforts of unknown soldiers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Moqeysi, the prosecutor of the Lorestan Islamic Revolution Court said in a telephone conversation:

With the persistent efforts of the brothers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Lorestan prosecutor's office, 40 members of grades 1 and 2 of this treacherous and spying party have been brought to justice.

He added: With the arrest of Mohsen Naqavi, the chief of this party in the Lorestan Province, we have been able to identify and arrest all their first- and second-grade officeholders in a short time. He continued: As far as I know, all their flimsy installations in the province have been destroyed; not only in this province but by the grace of God and the prophet-like guidance of the imam of the nation, throughout Iran.

In answer to a question about the quantity of interorganizational equipment recovered recovered he said: All their publishing equipment and confidential files have been discovered and seized and the names of those who were actively involved have fallen into our hands. Therefore, we request all those who were active participants or even partial supporters, to report without any fear immediately, since we already have their names and they have been completely identified. We want them to surrender themselves personally and to know that as the chief prosecutor and the acting Friday imam Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said, if they have not done anything to harm the interests of the Islamic Republic, they will be released, and after registration of their names, we will not harass them. Otherwise, in the event they go into hiding and fail to report themselves, they will face drastic consequences.

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## BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--Katmandu, 21 May (AFP)--Nepal's King Birendra received credentials from the ambassadors of Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Greece at a ceremony in the Narayanhity Royal Palace yesterday. While receiving Sri Lanka Ambassador Bernard P. Tilakaratna, the king cited socio-economic development as "the single greatest task before Nepal and Sri Lanka" and said it should be linked to an atmosphere of peace "within and around the country." Receiving credentials from Tanzanian Ambassador Mohamad Ali Foum, the king said he supported the proposal to turn the Indian Ocean into a "zone of peace" and that Nepal supported the Nonaligned Movement's call to demilitarize the Indian Ocean and remove all foreign bases from the area. While receiving Greek Ambassador John N. Sossidis, the king said, "Nepal appreciates the importance attached by Greece and the European Community to their relations with the developing countries of the world." [Summary] [BK240244 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 21 May 83]

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